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PUBLISHING IN INDIA

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Editorial

Complete (8)C

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INDIAN BOOK ABROAD

Export promotion has been said to be the main plank which can bolster a country's economy; but when it comes to the export of books, disillusionment sets in.

Now, let us watch this scenario of book export. A book priced at Rs. 100 in India is supplied to the importer abroad by the publisher at 40 to 50 percent discount. The importer has to meet the expenditure on freight and insurance, but still he spends much less than 40 or 50 percent, what he got by way of discount. And once when this book has landed in, say Britain, it becomes a very precious commodity and may sell at a high premium. Thus a Rs. 100-book in India may cost as much as £ 5.99 or Rs. 240 in London. But a Rs. 110-book is said to have been sold even at Rs. 1520 per copy there, i.e. for £ 38 per copy, taking conversion rate as Rs. 40 to the pound.

And what does the Indian publisher get? Just a trivial 16 per cent. Earlier, there was a provision of an incentive in the shape of 8 per cent cash compensatory support for the publisher who wanted to explore the foreign market. Unfortunately, that does not exist now. There is only the 25 per cent replenishment licence for products related with the publishing industry like paper, printing machinery and films. Earlier, these products could be sold in the open market at a premium, but now almost all the items are easily available in the indigenous market, thus making these licences valueless.

This is a peculiar situation which should concern both the publisher and the author. Whereas the publisher loses by way of his diminished returns, the author loses by way of the chicanerous situation that develops for no fault of his. For a Rs. 100-book, the author gets 10 per cent royalty for the copies sold in India. But since this book was supplied at a discount of 40 per cent for export, his royalty for such number of copies accrues at only Rs. 60 per copy; hence a loss of Rs. 4 per copy.

Surely, there is an urgent need to evolve a norm so that the foreign bookseller does not fatten at the cost of the Indian publisher and the Indian author.

Praveen Mittal

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News and Notes

Copyright Term Extended

The term of copyright has been extended from 50 to 60 years by an ordinance promulgated by the President on December 28,1991.

Entitled the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 1991, it extends by 10 years the term of copyright over what was earlier provided under the Copyright Act, 1957.

In case of works published during the lifetime of an author who died in 1941, like Rabindra Nath Tagore, copyright will not expire now on December 31. It will now expire on December 31, 2001.

The amendment, according to an official announcement, will have prospective effect only. Copyright will not be restored in works in which it had already expired on December 31, 1990 or earlier.

Amendments to Copyright Act Should Not Stifle Growth

In a statement issued to the press on Dec. 21, 1991, Sh. D. N. Malhotra, President of the Federation of Indian Publishers, has urged the Government to hold wide-ranging consultations with the publishing industry before carrying out the contemplated amendments to the Indian copyright Act so that the changes do no stifle the growth of the industry.

"In any effort to dilute the Act, the Govt. should give due consideration to the cultural, ideological and intellectual backlash of a developing country like India," the statement says, and welcomes the establishment of the copyright Enforcement Advisory Committee by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, as also the provision for Compulsory Licensing which facilitates reproduction of books of foreign origin, as a developing country like India cannot afford to import books on a permanent basis.

Incredible Range of Books at Children's Bookfair

The Children's Book Fair, inaugurated on Dec. 28, 1991, in Delhi offered a rich fare to one and all, especially to the children.

Nearly 65 publishers came together to create the right environment to attract children. As part of this, the National Book Trust, the organising body, arranged book-reading competitions, story-telling sessions, quizes and the like. Besides there were non-stop nursery rhymes on the speaker.

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An Analytical Approach to Problems of Indian Agriculture: A Theoretical and System Approach/ *B.H.Joshi*

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The New Political Elites - MLAs v/s MPs/ *Gautam Vohra*

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Buy Indian Books

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Book Reviews

CONCEPT OF SECULAR EDUCATION IN INDIA

Muktishree Ghosh

1991, viii+364pp., Rs. 280
ISBN 81-7018-629-3

Ms. Muktishree Ghosh completed this highly valuable research-cum-investigation work when one section of politicians in India had not raised doubts on concept of secularism advanced in our constitution. Hence she observes in her Preface to the book "To some the present study... may appear as merely superfluous or even unnecessary as they think it no problem at all." But since then things have perceptible changed. Now a challenge is being thrown to have a thorough discussion on the concept and in this process Ms Ghosh's thesis will be of immense value, for education is key to life.

"The word 'Secular' indicates a rational and critical outlook" observes the author - a truism, but the other side tends to ignore word 'critical' from it and there lies the difficulty.

She traces a running silver thread of secular education from Vedic to later Vedic period, the Buddhist period - when idea of 'Democracy in education' was first mooted. The thread was picked up in the later Pathan and the Mugal periods when "education became free from religious bias," and brightened by Akbar. The British gave a new meaning to it.

There are surely diverse views about what actual is secularism or which form of secular education is best suited. Her investigation reveals that "a genuine form of secular education will provide respect of all religion".

It will be pertinent to mention the author's own estimate of her thesis. Says she, "There was no study, discussion or even a vague prevalent idea of secular education based on a sound theoretical systems which was to be uniquely appropriate to the Indian condition".

In this respect it is a near path finding book. Near for there have been two faint attempts in this direction. One, by Ali Akbar Khan who wrote in 1962 a dissertation for Aligarh University and another by Rashid Nomain for Jamia Millia.

But Ms. Ghosh's work goes far beyond. She opens up a more thorough study on different aspects of secularism and secular education. And a continuous thrash of ideas has always been the moto of philosophy of life.

BLANK SHEETS (A NOVEL)

Amrita Pritam

New World Literature Series: 49

1992, iv + 84pp., Rs. 40
ISBN 81-7018-703-6

In this novelette famous poet Amrita Pritam dvelves into secrets of an unusual situation. A 24-year old youth looks with disbelief at the wrinkled face of his dying mother: "Age-wise, she well could've been my grand mother."

So he is eager to know the mystry. He wants Nidhi Maharaj, the family pundit to reveal it. Could he? Should he? Who was the real mother of the youthful Pankaj? Or his father? The search takes him to different characters of the novel. Maybe one of them is his uncle, others cousin sisters? But are they? The guest takes Pankaj to the philosophical aspects of relationship. But the train (or his train of thoughts) moves without satisfying him.

The book will arrest the reader.

THE FACE BEHIND SEVEN VEILS -

English Translation of Famous Hindi Novel Saat Ghunghat Wala Mukhada

New World Literature Series: 55

Amritlal Nagar

1992 vi + 118pp., Rs. 50
ISBN 81-7018-712-5

Only uptil now Indian woman used to put a veil - to ward off from stranger's eyes, to express her shyness et. al. But Amritlal Nagar's Munni alias Dilaram alias Begum Joanna Samru could hid behind seven veils - each time a different face, a different character.

Begum Samru is a legendary figure belonging to the Annals of Delhi. In this historical fiction Amritlal Nagar through his masterly craftsmanship portrays the meteoric rise of a Munni, the nautch girl to an Empress of Delhi. She comes alive as an intriguing statesman, a warrior and administrator too.

It will not be out of place if one may praise Nagar for bringing alive Samru's tragic drama to reach almost Shakespearen height.

Its translation is competently handled by Jai Ratan, who has made a name for himself in this genre.

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Maneet Kumar is Associate Professor of Commerce in Department of Commerce Studies, D.C.C., Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.
200pp. 23cm, 1992 **Rs.200**
ISBN 81-85475-35-0.

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Prof. B.Krishnarao.
This book comprises economic essays dealing with the economic changes taking place in India in recent years. It also refers to the recent policies for promoting industrial growth and an outward orientation of the Indian economy. Such policies assume indeed a large significance. The equilibrium analysis that could be applied to fishing enterprises, forestry, and the enterprises based on non-renewable resources has also been explained. This type of treatment could be of interest to a large number of students of economics and the general reader, for an understanding of the modern Indian economy.

B. Krishnarao is Professor of Economics at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.
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O.C.Sud teaches Political Science in the D.C.C., Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.
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Madhuri D. Bharambe teaches Education in the Department of Education, Nagpur University, Nagpur.
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Vijay Singh teaches History in the Department of History, Satyawati Co-educational College, Delhi University, Delhi.
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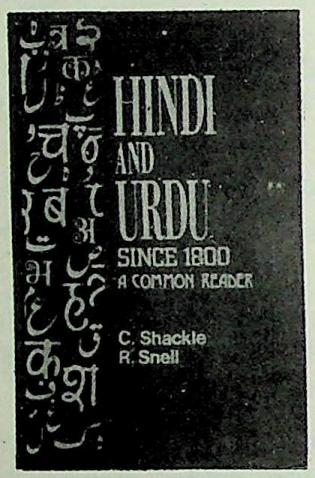

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PUBLISHING IN INDIA

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Editorial

REPRINTING OF FOREIGN RELEASES IN INDIA

According to an opinion, if an Indian Publisher negotiates well, he can print the same book in India for less than half the dollar or pound price.

Importing the rights to a foreign release may sound easy, but there is a lot of uncertainty involved. To begin with, the foreign publisher may simply refuse to part with the rights. India, as one can understand, does not figure high in their list of priorities. The rights for *Scarlett*, for example, could be obtained only after promising Macmillan-Pan that it would sell at least 2 lakh copis in India.

This brings into focus the other problem involved with obtaining rights. To make a promise of selling such a high number of copies is quite a risk, even for a well-established publishing house. Not only does the credibility of the Indian publishing trade rest with that decision, but also the investment hazards. To reprint about 2,000 copies, one has to sink in something like Rs. 50,000. And, this is only a conservative estimate. One can well imagine the amount of money involved in a promised sale of 2 lakh books.

Securing the rights of a book is one way of tiding over the current book crunch brought about by the import restriction. But, in the long run, some other concrete steps will have to be taken if the domestic publishing industry is to flourish. Firstly, it would help if the government made the publishing industry free from tax. Were this to happen, the price of books would be reduced by a considerable margin, thus boosting sales. The loss to the exchequer due to this step would be virtually negligible: Rs. 2 crore every year.

Also, it would help if the government could arrange loans for publishers at a rate of 8 or 9 per cent as against 16 per cent which is the current practice. Such soft loans – if only for a temporary period – would encourage publishing houses to be more daring.

Based on a write-up by R.K. Mehra, Rupa & Co., Carried by The Economic Times

—Praveen Mittal

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News and Notes

FALL-OUT OF THE BOOK FAIR

- The 10th World Book Fair has been described as an Utsav, a festive occasion. The participating publishers tell you: a large number of people visited the stalls, they bought books and the publishers made a profit.
- The lack of availability of foreign books made this book fair more truly representative of the Indian book publishing.
- A significant development has been the growth of English language publishing houses bringing out material by Indian writers (especially creative works) for the individual reader (as offered to the libraries) where the book trade has traditionally focusses. A major part of this kind of publishing is based on translation from Indian languages into English.
- An important growth area was that of children's books and educational aids. This was an area that most publishers fought shy of before... A whole now breed of manufacturers of educational aids and toys has recently come up, and practically every single one of them besiege by crowds.

(Based on a write-up carried by the Financial Express)

10TH WORLD BOOK FAIR HOW THEY REACTED

Andrew Neilly, President of the International Publishers Association (IPA) is of the opinion that there is need to make developing countries aware of the potential markets and tap the means to extract the greatest benefits from them.

Book piracy, according to Mr. Neilly, is the most debilitating problem in the developing world. "People think its bad in India, but Indonesia and Thailand are the worst hit by this problem". He blames lack of adequate legislation in most of the countries to the increase of this problem.

As for the reading American public, he opines, "I am sure the average American kid cares more about the amount of gas he/she can fill in the car, rather than whether a book is affordable".

According to Peter Weidbaas, President of the Frankfurt Book Fair, Delhi World Book Fair was neither fish nor fowl. The Frankfurt Book Fair had 92 countries participating in it while Delhi Fair had only 24 countries. For the Frankfurt Book Fair, Indian publishers send information about them only at the last minute, and as a result, they are accommodated in some remote corner. Participation in such fairs calls for at least half a year's preparation. There is a presentation of the authors' programme which is important for business. Then, there is exchange of information through catalogues where name of the book, publisher and author is carefully printed. Bibliographical information about books lacks in India.

ACADEMIC AWARDS FOR 1991 PRESENTED

Among the twenty-two writers who got Sahitya Akademi Award for 1991, 10 are poets, 4 novelists, 3 short story writers, 3 playwrights and 2 critics.

The writer who got the award in Tamil never studied beyond the eighth standard. He is Ki Rajanarayanan. His book is *Gopallapurathu Makkal*. Several students have completed their Ph.D's and M. Phils under his guidance.

He began writing at the age of 40 and never looked back, the 70 year old litterateur said.

RAJA RAMMOHUN ROY, THAT HE WAS

... He was not only the first in many things so far as his own time was concerned, he was a visionary. He visualised a kind of league of nations long before any Western thinker could have so. To begin with, he proposed a common Congress for France and Britain... He wondered why passports should regulate human movement.

(Excerpted from The Symbol in Ruins by Manoj Das - The Hindu)

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British Parliamentary Papers Relating to India (1662-1947) in 3 vols.
Adrian Sever

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Book Reviews

BHARATA SINDHU RASHMI

New World Literature Series: 57

Vinayak Krishna Gokak
1992, iv, 190 pp, Rs. 75
ISBN 81-7018-721-4

This is a summarised version in English (both in verse and prose) of an outstanding Epic of our times entitled *Bharat Sindhu Rashmi* running into thirty five thousand lines of blank verse in Kannada and is written by Vinayak Krishna Gokak (the winner of the prestigious Jnanpith Award for 1990). It is the quintessence of the original Epic in all its splendour.

Time unfolds itself here as a story–the enthralling story of the ancient Vedic India where Aryans and Dravidians commingle to form Bharata or Bharatvarsha. Sages like Agasthya, Vasistha, Vamadeva and Vishwamitra come alive in these pages.

A great experience in literature.

TEXTBOOK OF INDIAN EPIGRAPHY

K. Satya Murty
1992, xiv, 216 pp, Charts, Table, Rs. 70
ISBN 81-85418-88-8

Indian Epigraphy as its name suggests, provides main features of the Indian Epigraphy. As most of the University students do not have access to a complete and continuous information on the subject in a single volume, this book will be of immense help to them.

Separate exercises on chronograms and language factors like Moods, Compounds and Sandhis have been added. They have also been discussed. A reckoner on cyclic years comparing them with the Christian era dates and a glossary have also been appended. This is meant to make the students self-reliant.

Dr. K. Satya Murty is presently Reader and Head of the Department of Epigraphy and Written Records, School of History, Culture and Archaeology, Telugu University, Srisailam, A.P. He is associated with the Indian History Congress, Epigraphical Society of India, Andhra Pradesh History Congress, and Place Names Society of India.

Dr. Murty has to his credit Historical Tables (1981); Indian Heritage and Culture (1988); Political Geography of India (1990); Srisaila Kalaprabha (1989-90); and Handbook of Indian Architecture (1990). He has presented a number of papers at seminars.

Dr. Murty also has a flair for Astrology and Telugu literature.

LITERACY FOR ALL BY 2001

Strategies at District Level

(Based on 1991 Census Results)

K.G. Jolly
1992, vi, 210 pp, Tables, Rs. 90
ISBN 81-7018-717-6

United Nations Commission on Human Rights has regarded becoming literate to be a basic necessity of life. Universalisation of Literacy has always been a cherished goal in our five year plans. But we are nowhere near the goal of Universal Literacy. This book has attempted to analyse the 1991 Census results, particularly regarding the level of literacy. It has given detailed analysis at the district level with rural-urban and sex-wise breakdown. Finally, the study has identified the districts which can achieve the goal of universal literacy by 1996, by 2001 and by 2006. The book also contains full information on

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1991 Census counts at national, state, district level by sex, rural-urban -break-down, growth rate and density. It is hoped that the book would be useful for policy makers, planners, administrators and research workers in the field of population and education.

SOCIO-RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE ASSAMESE HINDUS

A Study of the Fasts and Festivals of Kamrup District

Hemanta Kumar Sarma
1992, xvi, 262 pp, B & W Photos, Rs. 280
ISBN 81-7035-084-0

Professor, Dr. Hemanta Kumar Sarma, the author of the work is a pains-taking researcher, an erudite scholar who has specialised himself in the area of folk-culture and literature of Assam–the North-Eastern region of India.

The work of Dr. Sarma has thrown light on the important fasts, fairs and festivals, rites and rituals of undivided Kamrup district of Assam. The book consisting of eleven chapters provides vivid descriptions of Assam in general and Kamrup in particular about its physical features, legends and historical facts, religions, folk-beliefs, religious and folk-festivals, traditional practices, sacramental and domestic rites, etc. The findings of his survey on the three main Hindu sects–*Saivism, Saktism,* and *Vaisnavism,* the worship of many Hindu gods and goddesses flash back the cultural history of Assam to the pre-historic and mediaeval periods.

It is more interesting to note that Dr. Sarma has given a detailed account of a fews, but rare agriculture-based fairs and festivals, rites and practices prevalent in the Kamrup district of Assam–the *Bihu,* the *Bhatheli,* the *Mahoho, goch-lowa, ag-ana, etc.*

No doubt, this monumental work would serve a long-felt need of the folk-readers and researchers of North-East-India.

DEMAND FOR ENERGY IN INDIAN INDUSTRIES

A Quantitative Approach

Joyashree Roy
1992, xii, 192 pp, Tables, Rs. 200
ISBN 81-7035-106-5

Recent uncertainties in the supply of major source of energy that is oil has aroused enthusiasm in the study of the implication of increasingly scarce and higher priced energy inputs for the consumers in the context of economic development. Thus, the price responsiveness of the consumers for fuels (especially for industrial consumers) has been extensively estimated for the developed countries and to a somewhat limited extent for developing countries, basically with two objectives in view:

(i) To estimate the feasibility and vulnerability of the consumers to rapidly changing supply and price situation through inter-fuel substitution possibilities.

(ii) To deduce 'derived demand function' for energy inputs from the production function, taking energy input as an 'Identifiable argument' in the production function, thus invalidating the value added approach.

This work contributes to the general trend by estimating elasticity of substitution and price elasticity for three conventional fuel types: coal, oil and electricity for the 'energy intensive' manufacturing industries in India with the help of a three-input translog model.

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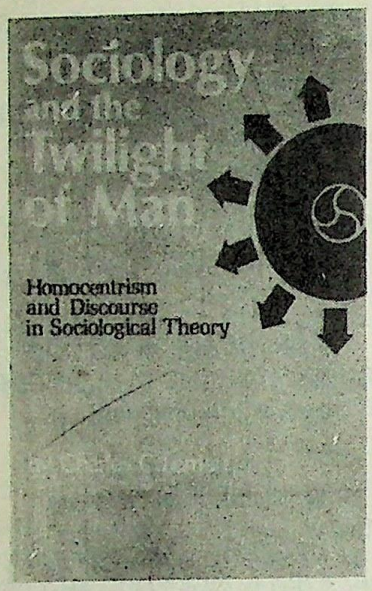

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Sociology and the Twilight of Man

Homocentrism and Discourse in Sociological Theory

Charles C Lemert

SOCIOLOGY seems not to have escaped its nineteenth-century classical age in which man was the dominant theoretical center. Yet, outside of sociology, this homocentrism and all other centers are in their twilight, if not their graves. In place of centers there is relativity; in place of originating principles, a world of infinite differences. Hence the question of what sociology is to do or become in the future.

Hence, too, the increasing emphasis in sociology today on theory itself. And the emphasis of an increasing number of theoretical writings is less on substantive problems than on what is happening to theory. At the same time, many theorists are preoccupied with philosophical problems. The level of discussion has moved above theory itself onto the transcendent plane of the paradigm.

Consequently, metatheory has become an independent genre of sociological literature, and takes theoretical discourse itself as its topic. Metatheoretical sociology is based largely on the conviction that modern sociological theory is inescapably and appropriately pluralistic. The view that sociological theory has entered into a period characterized by a wide variety of theories differing in scope, substance, and intent is now commonly held.

Sociology and the Twilight of Man is an important contribution to the modern sociological enterprise for several reasons. First, it raises basic questions about the progress made beyond earlier theoretical writings. Second, it questions the explanatory force of current theories. Third, it questions whether contemporary theory can continue to develop in a meaningful way without a profound reexamination of its assumptions and premises. And fourth, it demonstrates the value of discursive analysis to theoretical studies. Lemert's critique could lead to fundamental revisions of sociologists' perception of their discipline.

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'INTERVIEWS WITH INDIAN WRITERS'

Presented to Vice-President

'Interviews with Indian Writers', a B.R. Publishing Corporation release, authored by Dr. Ranavir Rangra, a noted critic, was presented to the Vice-President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma at a presentation function on Friday Feb. 14, 1992 in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sharma underlined the role of literature in strengthening emotional integrational and unity of the country and said that from East to West and from North to South, India had been ideologically a cohesive whole since centuries. He also said that our literature, though written in different Indian languages, had been a repository of India's culture, ideological unity and human aspirations, and it was, therefore, necessary that we got familiar with the thinking of different writers.

The book contains interviews with thirty five leading literary luminaries from fifteen Indian Languages. Most of them are either recipients of the prestigious Jnanpith Award or some other high Award. They are: Yashpal, Jainendra Kumar, Mahadevi Varma, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, S.H. Vatsyayan, Vishnu Prabhakar (Hindi), Saraswati Devi, C. Narayana Reddy (Telugu), Tarashankar Bandhyopadhyaya, Ashapurna Debi (Bengali), Gangadhar Gadgil, Vijay Tendulkar (Marathi), Naa. Parthasarathy, D. Jayakanthan (Tamil), Akhtar-ul-Iman, Jogindra Paul (Urdu) Umashankar Joshi, Sitanshu Yashachandra (Gujarati), G. Sankara Kurup, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai (Malayalam), Masti Venkatesa Iyengar, S.L. Bhyrappa (Kannada), Gopinath Mohanty, Sitakant Mahapatra (Oriya), Amrita Pritam, Haribhajan Singh (Punjabi), Popati R. Hiranandani (Sindhi), Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, Navakanta Baru (Assamese), Dinanath Nadim (Kashmiri) and Raja Rao, Nissim Ezekiel (English).

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Editorial

THIS REMAINDER BUSINESS!

"The practice of importing remainders has become common since the profit margin is potentially huge. The remainders constitute the titles that are dumped by western publishers in the Indian market, once their shelf life in the West, which spans between four and six months compared to several years here, is over. These books are usually disposed of at anything between 70 and 90 per cent less than the face value. So much so that, sometimes they are sold off by weight in order to save store space which is at a premium in the West.

For the importers, such purchases by weight virtually come ten a penny, for most of them are usually the paperbacks and hence weigh little. The importers buy them in bulk and make fast money selling them at prices that leave a substantial margin for the traders.

To restrict the import of remainders, no importer is allowed to bring in more than 1,500 copies of any one title in a year. But, the sources say, the unscrupulous remainder merchants easily circumvent this limit and buy thousands of copies of any title by importing under several names. Not only that, some importers even resort to over-invoicing and pocket huge amounts of money the sources add.

It is this unaccounted money which is enabling these traders to continue their imports despite RBI restriction that importers must deposit, in advance, 200 per cent of the import amount as margin money."

(Excerpted from
Sunday Mail
Nov. 24, 1991)

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News and Notes

AFRO—ASIAN PUBLISHING: CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

A compilation by two publishers who matter. According to the blurb, it is a critical analysis of contemporary trends in publishing and the nature of problems faced by the publishing industry in countries of the Afro-Asian region. It contains fourteen essays by eminent publishing professionals and academicians who can speak with authority on the subjects dealt with by them.

A study of these essays reveals that some of the issues discussed have a common perspective and striking similarities and that there is no dearth of creative talent in many of the Afro-Asian nations.. Moreover, the situations in which the publishers of these countries are placed and the problems they face are more or less the same.

(Source : The Hindustan Times)

TOKYO BOOK FAIR

For the first time, the Tokyo International Book Fair has invited international exhibitors. The fair is scheduled to be held from Oct. 31 to November 4, 1992, offering 11,000 sq. m. of fully-serviced air conditioned space.

It has been organised every two years since 1984.

OPENING A NEW CHAPTER

Now that a beginning has been made, there is likely to be increased cooperation between Indian and Foreign language publishers. The barrier of translation from non-English European languages into Indian languages has been broken by the efforts of foreign embassies in New Delhi, by subsidising the cost of such translations. The case of the cultural and scientific consulate of the French embassy is noteworthy. It has secured the rights of many French technical books for Indian publishers in English and Indian languages and paid the full translation costs. Other embassies are doing so also.

(A Report on IPA Meet— Courtesy : Times of India)

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Forthcoming Books

Adi Sankara and Sri Aurobindo
V. Narayan Karan Reddy

An Analytical Approach to Problems of Indian Agriculture: A Theoretical and System Approach
B.H. Joshi

Between the Real and Surreal: Modernism and the Avant - Garde in the American Drama of the Nineteen Sixties
B. Yugendranath

British Parliamentary Papers Relating to India (1662-1947) in 3 Vols.
Adrian Sever

Communication Technology for Rural Development
Ranjit Singh

Corruption and Black Money in India
M. Halayya

Dress and Costumes of Ancient Orissa: From Earliest Times to 16th Century A.D.
R.P. Mohapatra

Education and Family Welfare Planning
B.N. Sarkar

The Elderly Population in Developed and Developing World: Policies, Problems and Perspectives
P. Krishnan & K. Mahadevan

ELT: Emerging Curricular Issues
S. Rama Devi

Facet Analysis of Ranganathan (A Centenary Tribute)
P.S.G. Kumar

Gender and Literature
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Plant Wealth of the Lower Ganga Delta
K.R. Naskar

Readings in Population Research: Policy, Methodology and Perspectives
P. Krishnan & Others

Women in Meghalaya
Soumen Sen

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Book Reviews

WISDOM OF RAGA (ELUCIDATION OF INDIAN AIRS)

S. Bandyopadhyaya

1991, vi, 390pp., Rs. 360
ISBN 81-7018-576-9

It is a concise dictionary of Hindustani music–*The Rag.* The short descriptions of all the rare, uncommon and popular current melodies, that are stated in the book are the remarkable examples of *timbre* of attractive sweet sounds in their various forms, having in them the bewitching charm and elegance of their own. The modes, namely–*Bhairav, Malkauns, Hindoel, Basant* and *Megh* are not less than one thousand years old. Yet their magnetic still remains in them as natural. Many melodies have been introduced by the pious souls of later ages, since Twelveth to Eighteenth centuries. A.D.

The *Rag namely, Yaman, Desh, Kaphi,* and *Bhairavi* each have all the virtues of sentiments that assist the patients of blood pressure of all types. Also the victims of arthritis might get some relief in their ailments to some extent. Research scholars of music and physical sciences may find the subject purposeful for their investigation and further research. This could easily be experimented upon in hospitals all over the country and abroad.

ECOLOGY COGNITION METACOGNITION AND MIND

G.C. Gupta

1992, xii, 140pp., Rs. 150
ISBN 81-7018-718-4

In this book, the author considers the development of cognition, metacognition, and mind in the perspective of ecology. Drawing upon the epoch making contributions of Vygotsky, Bruner, and Piaget, he shows the relevance of Neo-Piagetians to the overall theme, and examines the contributions from the emerging field of Cognitive Science for their meaningfulness to this perspective. Modelling of cognitive processes have been viewed in the neurophysiology and cognitive neuroscience frames correlating the findings with the attempts at simulating these processes at the micro/macro levels. Tracing the origins of metacognitions to the early experiences, according to him, processual relationship between cognition and metacognition is founded in an ecological perspective, defining the content of ones' experiences. He looks at mind/brain issues essentially rooted in the nature of neural activity of the brain, mediated by its computational character, whether of Von-Neumannian or PDP type. Computational processes act upon the representations which are the contents of the cognitions. Mind is an epiphenomenon of these processes, constrained by the ecological perspectives which give a shaping to it. The contemporary issues in the Philosophy of Mind should remain the guiding force for the efforts of a computational/cognitive psychologist keeping him on his nerves' ends in his research pursuits in this area.

THE SKY CHANGES: A Novel

New World Literature Series: 39

Raji Narasimhan

1991, 144pp., Rs. 50
ISBN 81-7018-664-1

This is the story of an Englishman's infiltration into an Indian family. It shatters the family, as it nearly does the infiltrator himself. But it is a necessary shattering, a necessary cleansing of dryrot and deadwood to build a-fresh. Not only Krishna, but her parents too–her mother especially–are torn free of the sterile wastes into which their lives have sunk. And as for David, the infiltrator, he goes away "with a browning" that cannot wash off easily. It is the story of an erotic encounter of East and West that is also a creative encounter, a rejuvenating encounter.

An intense dry-eyed prose which is refreshing and new in Indian writing in English.

–Bulletin of the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages. Hyderabad.

After much speculative exhaustion about critics having the need to be creative.... and creative writers who need to sharpen their critical acumen.... we have.... Raji Narasimhan....

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whose fiction has nerve and whose criticism can surprise with its restraint and underplay.

–The Hindustan Times, Delhi.

THE BLOOD AND OTHER STORIES

New World Literature Series: 40

P. Raja, 199

1991, 112pp., Rs. 40

ISBN 81-7018-655-X

There are writers who go straight to your heart. P. Raja is one of them. His stories touch not only deep inside you, but also leave their indelible mark there. In fact, they are full of compassion, the highest quality that a writer could possess. Also, they are imbued with an imagination which enthralls.

P. Raja draws heavily on the radiance of Pondicherry, and thus is always fresh.

PTERODACTYL AND OTHER SHORT STORIES

New World Literature Series: 44

Tushar Kanti Ghosh

1991, 80pp., Rs. 40

ISBN 81-7018-691-9

A set of another twelve stories by the author of *Horror in the Night Express and Other Stories.*

The stories in the present collection have a vision of an awakening country (*Pterodactyl*), a graphic description of the agonies suffered by a young Bengali boy on Bengal being partitioned (*Epic That Was Never Written*), questions raised regarding the relevance of Rabindranath Tagore (*Song of the Prisoner* and *From the Diary of A Journalist*), blend of routine and romance (*Return to Headquarters*), lamentation over the death of lyricism in the present-day life (*Death of a Lyre*), etc.

Thematically, a challenging collection, projecting itself into 2000 A.D.

Most of these stories have appeared in the Puja Number of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the Sunday Magazine section of the same paper.

A MILLION FIRES: A NOVEL

New World Literature Series: 50

Raj Gill

1992, 224pp., Rs. 90

ISBN 81-7018-704-4

A Million Fires is a story of the people caught in the turbulent sea of life rift with superstition, greed, jealousy, love, hate and deception. It is a sage of events in the life of a simple woman from the peasant stock which portrays the forces of circumstances conveniently accepted as human destiny. The story unveils the brutal inhumanity of a simple people and the planned and deliberate deception of them politicians and of even today with dogma and superstition; of behind-the-scenes politics and of the frailty of the modern democratic system which holds an inherent potential for autocracy and dictatorship.

The novel touches the finer chords of human sentiments, values and relationships, setting them off brilliantly against the sordid and predatory aspect of modern life.

VICTORIA OCAMPO: An Exercise in Indo-Argentine Relationship

New World Literature Series: 58

Embassy of Argentina in India & Susnigdha Dey

1992, x, 150pp., Rs. 110

ISBN 81-7018-722-2

The figure of Victoria Ocampo stands out in bold relief in the literary and cultural spheres in Argentina in particular and in Latin America in general, especially because of her role in bringing the continental and the oriental values in sharp focus. She has not only been a true *entrepreneur* of universal culture but also a distinguished writer, a brilliant editor, an indomitable feminist and an indefatigable crusader for justice and liberty. She has endeared herself among the Indian intelligentsia because she nursed Tagore at Buenos Aires and her reminiscences left their marks on the mind and poetry of Rabindranath. She also came to know Gandhi and Nehru besides many other Indians in the beginning of the century. Here is a collection of papers presented during a seminar, as a homage to the *Grande Dame*, organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Embassy of Argentina.

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Richer Countries Have More Readers

In poorer countries, it is said, people do not consider books as a remedy for any problem. But in richer countries, people fill up their empty hours with reading. In fact, they make provision for books in their family budget. Even books are presented as gifts, and that's why, a book sells by thousands there and runs into many editions.

In India, electronic media has badly surped the place of books. In cities, the position in worse. In Delhi, according to a survey, 92.7% people watch T.V. They hardly have time to look up books. At best, they look up newspapers and magazines. Books are costlier, because they sell less. If they sold more, their prices would have not gone so high.

(From an article in Sunday Mail (Hindi), March 29, 1992)

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A Million Fires : A Significant Contribution To Literature

A Million Fires, Raj Gills's recent novel, published by B.R. Publishing Corporation, has been hailed as a significant contribution to literature. It is the story of a simple woman who rises to heights under the stress, of circumstances and takes the reins of the country in her hands as its Prime Minister and has also to declare emergency to deal with an extra-ordinary situation.

The novel was discussed at a literary forum in the presence of Shri Manoj Das, an eminent novelist and short story writer, Shri Raj Gill, the author and Shri Praveen Mittal, the Publisher. Others who participated in the discussion were Dr. Ranveer Rangra, a critic, Dr. Narendra Mohan, a critic, poet and playwright, Sh. Pratap Sahgal, Playwriter and poet, Dr. P.S. Kanwar, poet and critic and Smt. Mrindula Garg, short story writer and novelist. It was moderated by Shri Shrawan Kumar, short story writer, novelist and editor.

Introducing the author, Shri Shrawan Kumar said that the reputation of Shri Gill was constantly on the ascendance and that he created an unusual character in the shape of Alvika. Dr. Rangra was of the view that whereas Shri Gill successfully created the outer space, the inner space escaped him. Dr. Narendra Mohan said that though the novel made a very interesting reading, it could have as well made use of a certain dialect to create the necessary ambience. Shri Pratap Sahgal was also of the same view. But Dr. Kanwar defended the novel stoutly and said that such a dialect was an imposibility in a novel written in English by an Indian, unless the novelist committed vulgarities like some earlier writers. Smt. Garg saw two different characters in Alvika. She said that Alvika, before her re-birth, was an entirely different entity, and the one who took to social work and politics was a different one.

Shri Raj Gill also spoke on the occasion. He said it was wrong to deduce that the character of Alvika was drawn on the dotted lines or that it resembled that of Smt. Indira Gandhi. As a matter of fact, the character grew up naturally and whatever she did was inherent in her. It also reveals how a dictator is made.

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Editorial

FROM EURO-CENTRIC TO INDO-CENTRIC

The education strategy itself will have to be changed. Education can no longer confine itself to impart knowledge about the past and the immediate past. The curriculum should be future-focussed with projections about things, events and their possible ramifications in the coming years. These may include environmental changes, societal forms, family structure, human relationships, ethical and moral issues, emerging technologies etc.

For instance, genetic and biomedical engineering have already given us artificial skin, intraocular lenses, electronic pacemakers and artificial blood vessels. 'Cloning' can result in the production of an entire human race, according to 'specifications'. Conception and nuturing of babies, outside the human body, is possible. These will seriously affect the age-old concepts of family, race, religion and even life and death. Are we (not to talk the younger generation) prepared to face these?

It is in this context that the Supplementary Reading Materials on scientific topics for the young and the adolescents gain importance. Either as a part of the formal curriculum or as general reading for enrichment, the need of such books is much more relevant now than ever before. Not only have the books to be produced in larger numbers, these have to be published in the regional languages, rather than in English only. While translating from English to regional languages is always possible, efforts and encouragement to write originally in the regional languages will be immensely useful. This is not difficult though it may seem so initially.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has published a number of such titles, written originally in Hindi, under its Reading to Learn Series. A number of reputed Indian Scientists accepted the challenge and produced manuscripts in Hindi on various topics, which are comparable to the best in English. It is time that we moved from the 'Euro-centric' to the 'Indo-centric approach.

[Excerpted from an article carried by Sunday Observer, April 16, 1992]

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News and Notes

Sunday Book Bazar Changes Place

Do you lament the Delhi Sunday Book Bazar which does not show up itself as it used to at one time? Then it flourished on the pavements of Netaji Subhash Marg, from end to end, on every Sunday, with about forty-five booksellers participating in it. Now it has been pushed aside to the pavement of Kedar Nath Road (between the A.S.V.J. High School and Jain Orphanage).

The change of venue has upset many a book lover and student. One could buy books ranging from classics to those on the school/University syllabus.

The Sunday Bazar was born when the last of the British had left, leaving their libraries behind. Bookshelves replete with priceless books were sold to the *Kabadis* for a song.

The new site is said to be presenting problems. The books have to be transported every Sunday (earlier there were slots), and the place "stinks to the high heavens". The old site was not obstructing the traffic flow as the flow was always thin on Sundays, aver the booksellers.

At the end of it all, it is perhaps the book-lover who will miss the pavement stalls, as he had come to associate his Sunday afternoons with them. The booksellers also want the old site to be retrieved and have taken up their cause with the authorities.

O.P. Ghai Passes Away

Doyen among publishers and former President of the Federation of Indian Publishers, Shri O.P. Ghai passed away on May 6, 1991. He was 72.

Shri Ghai started his carrier as a teacher in Lahore before the partition. Later, he took to writing and publishing. He compiled and edited a number of religious books including 'The Quest for Development, The Koran, The Japji and the Gita'.

Shri Ghai believed in the power of the individual to shape his own destiny and founded the Institute of Personal Development.

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COMMITTED TO HUMAN VALUES

N For Nobody: Autobiography of An English Teacher

C.D. Narasimhaiah

Prof. C.D. Narasimhaiah of Mysore, or CDN as he is known, has had a lifelong commitment to literature and human values which he is able to communicate in this unusual autobiography. "When one finds a natural style", says Pascal, "one is amazed and delighted, for where one expected to see an author, one discovered a man". CDN has endured his share of controversy, academic politics and skullduggery. His sensitive spirit does shy away from hurtful episodes, though one can almost sense him wincing at the memory; but all is set down with candour and generosity, and a humility untouched by either success or disappointment.

CDN's lonely mission to serve the highest values has been sustained by a journal he edits, the *Literary Criterion,* and the scholar's ashram he has built after retirement, "Dhvanyaloka".

The autobiography has a tragic coda on the death of his dynamic younger son. His rootedness in Indian values and the commonwealth of literature enable him to survive this blow with a measure of stoic calm.

C.D.N's influence and standing were publicly recognised by the award of Padma Bhushan in 1990, though he has not referred to it in the text. One is inclined to the view that the 'N' in C.D.N's name does not stand for 'Nobody' but 'Noble'.

—A Madhavan
(From a review in The Pioneer, New Delhi)

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B. Yugendranath

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Adrian Sever

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M. Halayya

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Women in Meghalaya
Soumen Sen

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Book Reviews

NARAHARI: PROPHET OF NEW INDIA A NOVEL

New World Literature Series: 54

Vinayak Krishna Gokak

1992, 298pp., Rs. 150
ISBN 81-7018-710-9

Narahari is a story of vision, of future possibilities. It is the story of a hero-spirit whose life is dedicated to the uplift of humanity. It seeks to create an awakening in the world and bring about ideal human conditions.

Narahari, Prophet of New India, is a "lyrico-philosophical" novel. It throws light on *Poorna Jeevan Kendra*, the Ashram devoted to the ideals of integral life. Narahari, the protagonist is the head of this Ashram and the novel portrays the evolution of his personality, his perception of Truth, righteousness, love, serenity, universality and his mission in life.

Narahari's evolution as a spiritual leader passing through agony is narrated in the four volumes of *Samarasve' Jeevana–a modern kannada classic. (its abridged version in English is entitled The Agony and the Glory* and is also published by B.R. Publications, Delhi) *Narahari Prophet of New India*, a sequel, is the fifth volume.

LITERARY THEORY: POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS

New World Literature Series: 41

Charu Sheel Singh

1991, xii + 150pp., Rs. 90
ISBN 81-7018-663-3

The literary theorists studied here have greatly influenced the course of literary studies in England, America, and wherever English Literature is studied and taught. The first chapter discusses expectations and promises literary theory could fulfil; it also highlights the limitations literary theory carries with itself. The chapter adheres to the view that literary theory cannot begin or end in any specific period of time or that the individual anthropomorphism cannot dream of making it self-sufficient in relation to our understanding of literature. Mimetic, intuitional, epistemological, cultural theories of literature are closely examined. The second chapter discusses the gestural aspect of language in the work of Kenneth Burke. Harold Bloom's concepts of misprison, misreading and revisionism are accounted for in the third chapter. The fourth chapter discusses the tropes of reading as developed by Paul de Man and his other reading-strategies that make the experience of reading literature a unique one. The fifth chapter picks up the arguments where chapter First had left them, with special reference to W.J.T. Mitchell's *Against Theory*. Kant and Heidegger are picked up from the Western tradition as the two most challenging thinkers who not only reorient Western modes of thinking but bring the East and the West a great deal closer. The last chapter briefly focusses upon what I feel a possible theory of literature could be.

INDIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

New World Literature Series: 32

Subhash Chandra Sarker

1991, xvi + 390pp., Rs. 320
ISBN 81-7018-625-0

The articles, collected in the book, bear upon the most pressing problems of contemporary Indian society–cultural, religious and literary. Most discussions on the cultural aspects of the Indian society in English language tend to gloss over the complex character of the Indian cultural scene with its linguistic and religious differences, and concern themselves with generalities. The indifference to the specifics of the cultural problems of the widely

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divergent linguistic and cultural groups within the country has led to a dangerous blockade to cultural communication.

The articles, although written over a period of decades have an underlying thematic unity and contemporary relevance in the concern for the cultural development of the masses. The earliest article, written more than four decades ago, deals with the topic of the place of the mother tongue in society. The same problem engages attention in an article written four decades later in 1988 in the growing illiteracy of the highly educated in their mother tongue, giving rise to newer problems of cultural development–indeed a grave cultural crisis. The problem is yet to be resolved in the nineteen nineties. Some of the articles provide an insight into the life and works of some of the most eminent Indian cultural giants.

WALT WHITMAN AND RABINDRANATH TAGORE: A STUDY IN COMPARISON

New World Literature Series: 46

C.N. Sastry
1992, vi + 150pp. Rs. 120
ISBN 81-7018-698-6

This study seeks to explore the common ground between the two representative poet-prophets of the USA and India and their concern for the welfare of the common man. The divergent family backgrounds of the two visionaries have also been studied with a view to bringing out the individual poetic perception of each, the entire humanity being their concern.

Both the poets seek to span earth and heaven with a rainbow bridge of synthesis and integration. Both of them glorify the innocence of childhood and value the dignity of human personality which as a microcosm reflects all the splendour of the macrocosm. Their love of freedom is manifested in the advocacy of free verse as a medium to freely and fully express the urges and aspirations of the human heart.

KALINGA UNDER THE EASTERN GANGAS: CA. 900 A.D. - 1200 A.D.

N. Mukunda Rao
1991, xviii + 260pp., Tables, Rs. 225
ISBN 81-7018-621-8

The book *kalinga under the Eastern Gangas (Ca. 900 A.D. to 1200 A.D.)* is an exceptional work as it concentrates on a very detailed study of various aspects of the administrative set up of the Ganga state. His work begins with a comprehensive outline of the political history of the Eastern Gangas which is followed by a detailed survey of the general set up of the administrative machinery of the State. This descriptive chapter contains a thorough study of the subject. An interesting new contribution to this subject is the discovery of Rajavidya and Gangavidya as salient features of the Ganga kingship. The author analyses with great care the 'nayankara system' which later on became very important in the Vijayanagara administrative set up of the Empire. The author rightly points out that this system might have originated in Kalinga and its neighbouring regions. The most important and perhaps also the most ingenious part of the book is the extensive study on the administrative divisions in chapter 6 the Erada vishaya or pampu in chapter 7 and the vishayas in their historical perspective in chapter 8. Of particular value are, therefore, the detailed lists and respective maps in chapter 8 about twelve vishayas in Kalinga. The last two major chapters deal with the economic and socio-religious conditions under the Ganga dynasty. Of particular interest is the section on land tenures with a detailed study on the *Kara* and *Akara* grants which provides new insight into the agrarian relations of Kalinga. The work concludes with a comprehensive chapter on "Summary and conclusion".

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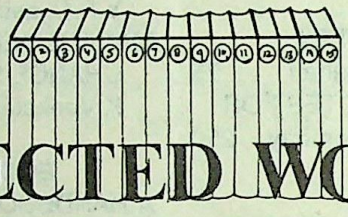

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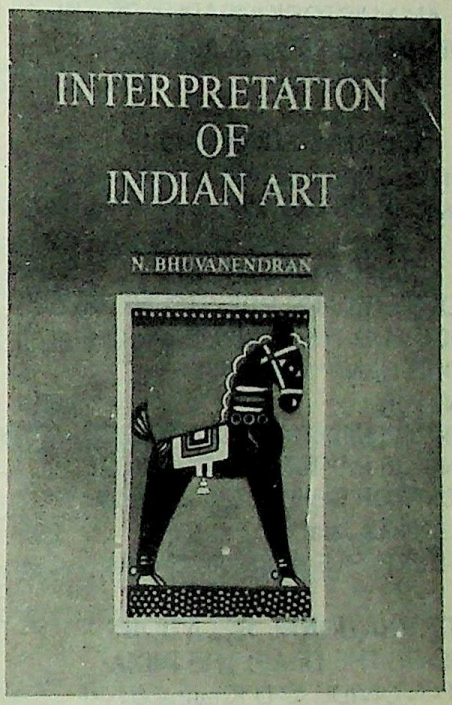

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Living Faiths in Modern India

by

Shashi Ahluwalia Meenakshi Ahluwalia

The Volume analyses various religions and their tenets. Six religions discussed in the book are oriental. Four of them Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism - are native to the soil. Hinduism started off with a basic framework of civilised content mixed with the superstition which held the people of those times in their grip. Over a period of time, the ritualism in the religion became anathema to some of the later thinkers. They amended and altered the religious code, defined their own concept of salvation and set the trend for new religions. Thus came into being three religions - Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism - which are in many ways reformative concepts, evolved from Hinduism.

Islam, another oriental religion, came to India from the East and the North. It came in the form of a conquerring force intent on territorial expansion. India, allowed them to settle down and pursue their religion without any obstructions. In course of time, Muslims became as much part of India as followers of the other native religions.

Christianity came to India before it reached Europe. But it spread to all parts of the country only with the advent to colonial powers in the 15th century. In many churches mass in held in Indian languages.

The Central thrust of the book is that all religions believe in Sarva Dharma Bav which in the modern context has gained the connotation 'Secularism'.

Royal 8 Vo **pp 400** **Rs. 500**

Eastern Bengal and Assam District Gazetteer Rangpur

By

J.A. Vas

Books on North-East galore yet there is lack of awareness on the streak of individuality which marks the region. This slender volume depicts the varied culture, social problems, economic strains, social values and ethnic diversities of Rangpur District of the Terrain.

The volume provides an arm-chair trip through the exotic land of Rangpur. To present the true picture of the land and people the author has made extensive use of Dr. Buchanan Hamilton's Account of Runggopoor, published in 1838 and E.E. Glazier's "Report on the Rangpur District", of 1873, and his "Further Notes on the Rangpur Records", published in 1786 and W.W. Hunter's Statistical Account of Rangpur" published in 1876.

A must for every library-individual or public.

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PROF. GOKAK PASSES AWAY

Prof. V.K. Gokak is no more. He passed away in the early hours of April 28, 1992 at the ripe age of 82 years. Students of literature hailed him as a link between the past and the present, between the ancient and the modern Kannada literature.

Born in an advocate's family in 1909 at Savanur in Dharwad district, Vinayaka Krishna Gokak completed his early education at Savanur itself. He joined Pune's Fergusson College as an Assistant Professor, but left shortly for England to pursue higher studies at the Oxford University.

His first creative work *Kalopasaka*, a collection of poems, was published in 1934 and with it began one of the most distinguished literary career in modern Kannada literature. Prof. Gokak's writings over the past four decades were concerned with the problem of man's spiritual evolution. His works showed that his thoughts were firmly rooted in India.

Prof. Gokak was among the few Indian writers who had contributed to English poetry. A student of T.S. Eliot, he was no stranger to the problem of modern man–the problem of alienation. His work *Indilla Nale* (If not today, then tomorrow) gave a graphic account of the erosion of human values in the U.S.A. under the pressure of technology without humanity with a warning that if India followed this path she would also face a paralyzed humanity.

A Padmashri recipient, Prof. Gokak had also held various high positions, both as an educationist and as an administrator. He served as the Vice-Chancellor of the Bangalore University in 1966.

Unassuming and simple, Prof. Gokak was endowed with a sparkling sense of humour. He joined the elite band of Jnanpith award winners in 1990 for his memorable *Bharata Sindhu Rashmi*. The epic was the towering summit of the creative work of Prof. Gokak, who was the fifth Kannada poet to win the coveted award.

B.R. Publishing Corporation had the honour of publishing some of his most significant works including the Jnanpith Award Winning *Bharata Sindhu Rashmi*. They feel deeply aggrieved at the demise of this noble litterateur.

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Victoria Ocampo: Rich Tributes

At a get-together of litterateurs and Hispanic scholars in New Delhi on April 28, 1992, His Excellency Victor E. Beauge, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic in India, paid glowing tributes to Victoria Ocampo who was "not only a true *entrepreneur* of universal culture but also a distinguished writer, a brilliant editor, an indomitable feminist and an indefatigable crusader for justice and liberty". He also released the book entitled: *Victoria Ocampa: An Excercise in Indo-Argentine Relationship* on the occasion which he much appreciated for its production values and thanked the publisher (Mr. Praveen Mittal) for it who was present there.

Prof. Susnigdha Dey, one of the compilers and editors of the book, a spanish scholar and Rector of J.N.U., speaking on the occasion, dwelt on the discovery of artist in Tagore by Victoria Ocampo. He said it was Victoria who noticed his doodlings and brought them into the limelight by arranging the first ever exhibition of his paintings and drawings in Paris. He also praised the get-up of the book.

Victoria Ocampo was born on April 7, 1890. She was Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's hostess when he was in Buenos Aires in 1924. She was first 'introduced' to Tagore in 1914 through Adre Gide's rendering of Tagore's *Gitanjali*. She wrote in her autobiography which appeared after her death in 1979: "When *Gitanjali* first came into my hands... I was going through one of those crises which youth believes to be without issue. I felt the need to confide in someone, and this someone could only be God..."

In September 1924, before she met Tagore, she wrote "That spring was, in San Isidro, limpid and warm, with an extra-ordinary abundance of roses. I used to spend the mornings in the room, with all the windows open, smelling them, reading Tagore, thinking of Tagore, writing to Tagore, waiting for Tagore..."

In fact, Tagore much influenced her, as she influenced Tagore. She was his 'Vijaya'. "Not only was she to provide the inspiration for a good deal of his later writing, but she was responsible for discovering the visual artist in him..."

Victoria also came in contact with Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. Regarding Nehru in the role of a father, Victoria wrote: "...the tremendous influence of a man who used to think of a woman as a 'person'..."

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Editorial

QUALITY CONSCIOUSNESS AND EXPORT OF BOOKS

Are we, the Indian Publishers, conscious enough about the quality of books that we produce? It is often said that our books lack certain inputs, the most important of them being the professional input. In other words, the publisher here does not bother about the editorial input, cares two hoots for the blurb matter and is equally indifferent to the choice of right type face, cover design, lay out and texture of paper. The result: a sordid-looking book which nobody would like to pick up, least a foreign buyer.

Not that there is a dearth of buyers abroad. Books on Indology, Fine Arts, Culture, History, Archaeology, Religion, Yoga and Current Affairs are much too in demand and find their way into the developed world. Our textbooks on science and technology, particularly at the higher levels of education, are being studied by the students and teachers of developing countries. Non-resident Indians who are keen to keep themselves tied to their moorings and culture, need books in Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, Marathi, Urdu and other languages so that their idiom does not get stale, and so on.

The Indian book Industry has all along been clamouring for more export incentives because of the peculiar nature of this business—each title here, constitutes a separate commodity and requires different promotional efforts. With the partial convertibility of rupee from March 3, 1992, the issue of Exim Scrip and grant of other incentives have been done away with, but out of the export proceeds received from GCA countries, 40 percent is converted into rupees at official rate and 60 percent at market rate. However, the system is not applicable in regard to export to ACU countries like Bangladesh, Burma, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Iran. Besides, books are delayed at the ports for a pretty long time due to non-availability of vessels. Added to this is the problem of non-availability of credit facility from banks. Normally, it takes 4-16 weeks for the books to reach their destination, depending on the mode of despatch.

These are some of the hassles, but the gains are not small. It is therefore time that professionalism was introduced into publishing and standards kept up to match with the western standards. We do not grudge the mushroom growth of small publishers who enter the field with no expertise, but we do grudge their non-professionalism and lowering of the standards. This has to be discouraged, as no country can make headway with crude products.

[*Source*: NBT Newsletter June 1992]

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Fair and Unfair

. . . . . The stress was on selling rather than exposure, and the most easily saleable items were prominently exhibited. These were the best sellers from abroad—not necessarily the best books though they pandered to a class of readers who want to be thrilled and titillated. It was sickening to see the same American authors of violence and soft porn monopolising the front rows of stalls with their paper-backs in fantastic covers. . . . .

. . . . . It is better to make the Fair compact primarily to cater for the discriminating prospective buyer. For this purpose, the *publishers and the sellers have to be separated.* It would be good to *allot one hall exclusively for publishers to exhibit their own publications.* This will save the visitors from the wild goose chase and help genuine publishers get better exposure. The rest of the halls could be thrown open for the book bazaar, book shops with their bargain counters and all that.

(Excerpted from 'Indian Society of Authors, Newsletter No. XIII' (editorial) circulated by the Federation of Indian Publishers).

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News and Notes

COURSE IN TEXT BOOK PUBLISHING

An intensive course in text book Publishing has been organised by the Institute of Books Publishing, Sterling House, L-10, Green Park

Although scientists believe that they understand the causes of the problems, experts differ on how to solve it effectively and economically.

(G V Joshi in Deccan Chronicle
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By Sudeshna Basak

B.R. Publishing Corporation;
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The book under review endeavours to analyse the socio-cultural role of the Bengalee in Bihar and its impact on various walks of life of Biharis. The study begins with 1858 when the administration of India fell into the hands of British crown and ends at 1912 when Bihar was separated from

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(Excerpted from 'Indian Society of Authors, Newsletter No. XIII' (editorial) circulated by the Federation of Indian Publishers).

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News and Notes

COURSE IN TEXT BOOK PUBLISHING

An intensive course in text book Publishing has been organised by the Institute of Books Publishing, Sterling House, L–10, Green Park Extension, New Delhi-16 for executives in the publishing trade. Its duration is ten days, from Aug. 10 to Aug. 19, 1992.

It aims at creating higher standard of quality, making aware of the new techniques for tackling day-to-day situations and help achieve professional growth.

Registration Fee is Rs. 2,000 for Indian participants and U.S. $ 200 for Foreign Participants.

PRESERVING OLD BOOKS

Science is injecting new life into decaying books in many libraries in India and the world over where old books and documents printed in the 18th and 19th centuries or even earlier are stored for use of scholars and researchers.

The old books that are dying include some 10 million volumes at the Bibliotheque National, Paris, several million in the largest library in the world, Library of Congress in Washington, and about two million in the British Library, the largest in the United Kingdom.

The Washington library is losing more than 200 volumes daily due to decay caused by the ravages of time. On every shelf in the Paris library, there are brown envelopes with a red sticker saying, "Do Not Remove". Each envelope contains the remains of a book that can no longer bear the touch of human hands. The books are dead and the envelopes form their graves.

Although scientists believe that they understand the causes of the problems, experts differ on how to solve it effectively and economically.

(G.V. Joshi in Deccan Chronicle Secunderabad, may 3, 1992)

PLEA TO ENFORCE COPYRIGHTS ACT

President of the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) D.N. Malhotra has urged the government to take steps to enforce the Copyrights Act in its 'letter and spirit' to check the menace of piracy of books and plagiarism. In a statement issued on May 7, 1992, he said that the experience round the world clearly indicated that an effective Copyrights Act which lays stress on strict enforcement has promoted publishing and other related industries. It has also acted as a catalyst for stimulating the "creative impulse" of authors.

(Sunday Observer, New Delhi, May 8, 1992)

PRESEVING AN IDENTITY

Socio-Cultural Study of a Minority Linguistic Group (Bengalees in Bihar 1858-1912)

By Sudeshna Basak

B.R. Publishing Corporation;
Rs. 170/-

The book under review endeavours to analyse the socio-cultural role of the Bengalee in Bihar and its impact on various walks of life of Biharis. The study begins with 1858 when the administration of India fell into the hands of British crown and ends at 1912 when Bihar was separated from

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Bengal. The study is analytical in the treatment of the subject and evaluative in character.

Written in simple and intelligible language, the book gives evidence of the author's extensive research and considerable industry. Even though the central arch of the book is the delineation of the 50-odd years of socio-cultural role of the Bengalees in Bihar, it contains useful details of the close association between Bengal and Bihar dating back to the period of the aryanisation of the Gangetic Valley.

(Ash Narain Roy; The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, April 25, 1992)

VICIOUS CIRCLE

What needs to be understood is that unless publishing becomes an industry and reading habit becomes widespread, the price of books would never come down. High prices mean less sales and less sales mean higher prices. It is a vicious circle which can be broken only when the country develops. One hopes that is to some extent launched on this process.

(Amrik Singh in The Sunday Hindustan Times, New Delhi, April 19, 1992)

BOOK MARKETING: SOME TIPS

At a seminar on marketing of books, organised by the National Book Trust in April this year, both the theory and the practice of marketing came up for discussion. Chairman of the NBT Prof. U.R. Anantha Murthy, who inaugurated this two day seminar, remarked that though one entered the consciousness of another through books, much of publishing activity in India was not reader-oriented; at best, it was job-oriented or library-oriented, and that was the reason why publishers did not seem unduly bothered about book reviews and other publicity that helped promote proper marketing of books. These activities, according to him, were not seen as included in the 'creative' aspects of publishing. Prof. Murthy also laid stress on the importance of specialist bookshops. Often they were run by people who had no head for the business and were basically idealists, he said.

Another speaker who dwelt on the importance of book reviews in promoting the sale of books was Shri Zamir Ansari of Penguin Books. He was of the opinion that reviews in some papers brought better results than others. For general books, he said, it did help to advertise in some small way, but more than advertising, it was reviews that helped, even though it was difficult to establish any direct link between sales and reviews.

(Based on report carried by NBT News Letter May, 1992)

TRIPURA BOOKSELLERS HAVE A SHOW-DOWN

The 300 members of the booksellers' and publishers' association in Tripura are on a war-path. They seek withdrawal of the State Government's circular preventing them from directly selling text books to the students, reportedly resulting in the loss of more than Rs. one crore to traders during the current season.

According to an association spokesman, the Government has banned the sale of as many as 19 text books from private book shops in the State from May 1992, stating that they contained several mistakes. The books have been reprinted at a Calcutta press containing all the previous mistakes, but priced higher.

Repudiating the association's allegation, State Education Minister Debbarma has said that the students have benefited from this move as they no longer have to purchase compulsory note books along with the text books from the private booksellers. This sparked off a student's agitation throughout the state last year whereby one student was killed, he said.

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Forthcoming Books

Adi Sankara and Sri Aurobindo
V. Narayan Karan Reddy

An Analytical Approach to Problems of Indian Agriculture: A Theoretical and System Approach
B.H. Joshi

Between the Real and Surreal: Modernism and the Avant - Garde in the American Drama of the Nineteen Sixties
B. Yugendranath

British Parliamentary Papers Relating to India (1662-1947) in 3 Vols.
Adrian Sever

Communication Technology for Rural Development
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Dress and Costumes of Ancient Orissa: From Earliest Times to 16th Century A.D.
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S. Rama Devi

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P.S.G. Kumar

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Iqbal Kaur

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R.P. Mohapatra

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A. Kamala Vasini

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M. Omer Bajkaif & K. Mahadevan

Janata Party Experiment: An Insider's Account of Opposition Politics 1975-80
Madhu Limaye

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Book Reviews

THE MORTUARY MONUMENTS IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL INDIA

R.L. MISHRA
1991, xiv, 146pp., 24 B&-W Plate, ISBN: 81-7018-622-6
Rs. 150.00

This is a history of mortuary monuments which systematically traces the origin and phased development of the concept. The manuscript deals exhaustively with the various influences which have brought out substantial changes in the concept and also in its execution.

The Aryans and before them the people of Indus Valley had their own system of funeral which later on underwent substantial modifications and reform, when these people came in direct contact with the aboriginal people who had been inhabitating the land since time immemorial. This intermingling of racial traits gave rise to a process of cultural assimilation which ultimately resulted in the change in outlook.

It forcefully refutes the contention of those scholars (especially foreign) who deem the system of construction of mortuary monuments as of foreign inspiration and origin by tracing out the missing links of the custom.

The manuscript presents the mortuary monuments in their true perspective and grandeur by defining them architecturally and providing an inkling to the various influences that have gone into their making. Besides, the social and religious background of the people as a source of their achievement in this field has been defined, together with their thoughts and ideas about human existance and extinction.

POPULAR CULTURE: EAST AND WEST

Isaac Sequeira
1991, x, 130pp. 4 B&W Plate,
ISBN: 81-7018-654-4
Rs. 100.00

Popular Culture has been defined as "Culture of the People–their behaviour, values, and in particular, their entertainments, and not just certain art forms which appeal to a large number of people."

Popular Culture is a collection of 15 essays written by Prof. Sequeira on Indian, American, and International Popular Culture. Six of them were published in American Journals and six in Indian Journals.

The most effective way of studying a nation is to study its popular culture, "the world in which its people live, relax in and have fun in." Such a study deals with areas like leisure-time activities, films, T.V. and radio programmes, best sellers, comics, magazines, fashions, urban folklore, games, popular music, sociology of everyday life, history of the unlettered and inarticulate, image studies (iconology) and mass media history and analyses.

Popular Culture is truly catholic and comprehensive. Its study has immense possibilities. It opens up new frontiers of learning, borderlands of ideas, mores and customs. In the USA, Popular Culture Studies are being recognised as the spearhead of the "New Humanities" calculated to correct the imbalances that exist in the school and university curricula.

Popular Culture Studies demand an inter-disciplinary approach which has great appeal for the students.

STUDIES ON PALI COMMENTARIES

Kanai Lal Hazra
1991, xviii, 388pp.
ISBN: 81-7018-608-0
Rs. 320.00

Studies on Pali commentaries are undoubtedly Dr. K.L. Hazra's most brilliant contribution to the field of Buddhism. The present book is a store-house of information on Pali commentaries, and bears evidence on every page of it. It shows the author's indefatigable research, his genius for analysis and his familiarity with the Pali language and commentaries. It is no doubt a pioneering contribution to a field of study in which there have been too few works done by scholars. The author with single-minded devotion has written it for the cause of Pali language and literature. The lucidity and immaculate style of the author's description has been one of its special features. It is a work of considerable breadth.

The book is divided into four chapters. This valuable research work, suffixed with preface, abbreviations, bibliography and footnotes, shall be of great help to those people who are interested in Pali literature and language in general and Buddhism in particular. The work contains a detailed description of the Atthakathas, their origin and growth, biographical sketches of Buddhadatta, Buddhaghosa and Dhrma pada, enumeration of the works of those scholars, outline of the contents of these works and historical and geographical importance of the Pali commentaries.

This study will satiate every research minded person in his movement to find out true knowledge in this field of Buddhism. Students, scholars and the general readers alike will find this book highly interesting, useful and valuable for study and

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references. This will surely be of interest not only to specialists but also to those who are looking for an authentic picture of the Pali commentaries. It is a work of scholarship, for it contains much new material on the Pali commentaries. The author offers fresh insights into the religion of the Buddha, and Buddhist history and culture. This book must find an honoured place in the library of every Pali-minded people. It no doubt would inspire future generation of scholars to take up Pali studies.

THE SKY CHANGES
(A Novel)

New World Literature Series: 39

Raji Narasimhan
1991, 143pp.
ISBN 81-7018-664-1
Rs. 50.00 (P.B.)

This is the story of an Englishman's infiltration into an Indian family. It shatters the family, as it nearly does the infiltrator himself. But it is a necessary shattering, a necessary cleansing of dryrot and deadwood to build afresh. Not only Krishna, but her parents too—her mother especially-are torn free of the sterile wastes into which their lives have sunk. And as for David, the infiltrator, he goes away "with a browning" that cannot wash off easily. It is the story of an erotic encounter of East and West that is also a creative encounter, a rejuvenating encounter.

An intense dry-eyed prose which is refreshing and new in Indian writing in English.

–Bulletin of the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages. Hyderabad.

After much speculative exhaustion about critics having the need to be creative....and creative writers who need to sharpen their critical acumen....we have....Raji Narasimhan....whose fiction has nerve and whose criticism can surprise with its restraint and underplay.

–The Hindustan Times, Delhi.

THE LEGACY OF DR. AMBEDKAR: BHARAT RATNA

D.C. Ahir
1990, x, 357pp.,
ISBN: 81-7018-603-X
Rs. 80.00 (P.B.)

Since this is Dr. Ambedkar centenary year "The Legacy of Dr. Ambedkar" by D.C. Ahir is a well timed book. It is also a well documented account of the life and work of Dr. Ambedkar.

Dr. Ambedkar had such a multifaceted scintillating person-ality that whosoever came into contact with him was dazzled. He was a towering intellect, a great statesman, an undaunted rebel, a giant of a scholar, and a man of compassion, a rare strong will, and an unconquerable determination.

Ahir's book on Babasaheb is a compact package on his life and work.

Hindustan Times, New Delhi

A pioneering work making on overall assessment of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb's multi-dimensional personality. The last chapter sums up what others say about India's greatest person after the Buddha. Valuable guide to all Ambedkarites.

Dalit Voice, Bangalore

HANDBOOK OF EPIDEMIOLOGY: FOR PERSONNEL OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

L. Ramachandran
1991, viii, 139pp. Rs. 75.00 (P.B.)

The book provides complete understanding of the existing health problems and will this prove an excellent guide for health workers.

It discuss indepth the evolution of epidemiology, its scope, causation of diseases and their prevention. A useful compendium for anyone who feels concerned about the health of his fellow countrymen.

The author, Dr. L. Ramachandran, has been Consultant, Health Education and Epidemiology, to various organisation in the country and was recently elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (India).

ECHOES & RE-ECHOES: A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES AND A NOVELETTE

New World Literature Series: 30

Shrawan Kumar
1990, ISBN 81-7018-615-3
Rs. 60 (P.B.)

Echoes and Re-echoes of Shrawan Kumar are not vibrations of voices of other societies. Obviously, they are agonised cries he has heard on the tympanum of his ears. There is need in Hindi literature for suppressed voices of Shrawan Kumar's characters to be heard into our ears.

Dr. Mulk Raj Anand

I have been reading Shrawan Kumar's stories. I find them strikingly rich. They excel in compassion and range of human emotions and can compare with the best in any language.

There is a classic quality about these stories which fully subscribe to the spirit of India.

Raj Gill

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Short Story

THE VANQUISHED

Shrawan Kumar

He was big, very big. So big indeed that when he raised his eyes towards the sky, the sky looked like lowering itself.

The other one was also big, very big, but not so big as to make the sky lower itself when he raised his eyes towards it.

One day, the Number Two Big went to see the Number One Big. Number One, of course, also wanted to see the Number Two, but he could not imagine himself going to see him. That would have been against his pride.

Number One was seated on his ***aasan*** When he was told that Number Two was there to see him, he immediately became grim. No doubt, he had all along been wanting Number Two to see him, but his sudden announcement gave him a severe jolt. Maybe, Number Two moves so cleverly that he usurps his place. But he remained grim and pretended lost in his thoughts.

His man wanted to know as to how he should counter Number Two. He, of course, could not see the movements behind the skin of his master's face. He repeated his question.

"All right, call him," Number One said. He was sitting alert.

Number Two entered the room. As he entered, he simulated touching Number One's feet. Number One slightly raised his hand as if to bless him.

Number Two took his seat near Number One. He, too, was now sitting like Number One, cross-legged, alert.

For some time, they talked this and that. As they talked, Number One cleansed the glasses of his spectacles a good many times, of course with the end of his spotlessly white *dhoti*. Number Two only coughed to clear his throat. Or he palmed his round face, as if to reassure himself.

Number One now looked relaxed. Number Two had also, by now, come back to himself. He was now on the lookout for an opportunity to come to the crux of the matter.

Suddenly, Number One looked at his watch and became tense as before, Number Two also looked at his watch and tensed up.

"Right, I take your leave," Number Two ritualistically folded his hands.

Number One didn't say a word. He meant his approval.

Number Two was now finding it difficult to contain himself. His *ennui* was surfacing. "Pig," he muttered inaudibly. His feet were moving fast on the road.

Suddenly, he heard someone call him. It was Number One's man. He came running after him.

"Yes?" he questioned.

"Babuji again wants you. He got tea ready for you and you left!"

Number Two was visibly moved. "Is it?" There was a sudden change in him. "Babuji got tea ready for me?"

"Of course!"

He immediately turned around. Now he was moving faster with the man.

But Number One didn't ask Number Two in. A cup of tea was handed over to him outside the room of Number One.

As Number Two was slowly sipping his tea, Number One sprawled himself on his *aasan* and smirked in his big way.

(From 'Echoes & Re-echoes' by Shrawan Kumar. A collection of short stories and a novelette P. 184, Rs. 60/- (P.B.) Published by B.R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi-110 007)

Highly commended by critics and readers alike. "...compare with the best in any language," says Raj Gill.

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INTERVIEWS WITH INDIAN WRITERS:
A Pioneering Work

At an informal get-together of some eminent writers and scholars, held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on May 23, 1992, "Interviews with Indian Writers", a book authored by Dr. Ranavir Rangra, was discussed from different angles and was hailed as a pioneering effort. Mr. Moosa Raza, Secretary-designate to the Cabinet Secretariat, was in the chair. Mr. Shrawan Kumar, an eminent short story writer, steered the proceedings.

The book contains interviews with thirty-five stalwarts of Indian literature, drawn from fifteen Indian Languages and has been published by B.R Publishing Corporation, Delhi.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. Joginder Paul, an Urdu fiction writer, who figures in the book as an interviewee, said that Dr. Rangra's was a quiet, palpitating book which proved instrumental in introducing to him a good many Indian writers from different languages and inspired him to know their works. He expressed his satisfaction the way Dr. Rangra conducted himself while interviewing writers, and said that he always played a self-effacing role.

Mr. Satish Alok, co-editor, Pratibha India, a literary quarterly, was of the view that a good beginning had been made which deserved to be carried further. He commended Dr. Rangra's efforts for having completed the work without enough resources. He also said that Dr. Rangra had crossed thirty-five oceans as an author's mind was an ocean in itself.

Dr. T.N. Bali of Delhi University, was however, critical of this book inasmuch as it did not have a uniform approach to interviewing, nor did it reflect the thinking of the contemporary society. He suggested that the book should have carried an epilogue, summing up the conclusions of the dialogue that Dr. Rangra had with various writers.

Mr. Manohar Bandhopadhyay, Editor, Indian Railways, compared this book with the epoch-making 'Among the Greats' and said that this was the second great book of the era.

Among other who participated in the discussion were Mr. O.P. Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mr. Rajan Bhatt, Kannada Short Story writer, Mrs. Aruna Sitesh, Co-editor, Pratibha India and Mr. R.K. Murthi, Secretary General, Authors Society of India.

Replying to some of the points, Dr. Rangra said that he always approached the writers as a reader and never as a critic. He talked about the compulsion of doing this work and said that he always sought to induce a state of free association in the writers so that they came out with their innermost thoughts.

Mr. Moosa Raza, who made the concluding remarks, said that it was an epoch-making book and would be remembered for long, though on occasions he felt that the interviewer had put the interviewee on the defensive.

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PUBLISHING IN INDIA

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Editorial

A MATTER FOR CONCERN

Kerala enjoys the highest literacy rate - 70.42 per cent, according to 1981 census. They produce and buy more printed material than any other community, and authors and teachers are held in respect there.

But Kerala University's manuscript library, considered to be the largest in Asia, seems to be in a mess. Worms are reported to be burrowing through some of the rare manuscripts there.

The library, according to a report, has a collection of some 60,000 manuscripts, almost all on palm leaves. At least 30 per cent of this treasure has been destroyed or on the verge of being destroyed. The reason behind this irreparable loss is the malfunctioning of the air conditioning plant which has been suffering maintenance for lack of funds. The manuscripts deal with Vedanta, tantra, architecture, astrology and ayurveda, and most of them are in Sanskrit.

It is understood that the Library Director has taken up the issues with government officials. But the files have their own norm of moving. How ironic it looks when we recall that the culture of Kerala has been attracting people from all over the world for millennia. It is time the authorities woke up.

[Based on a write-up carried by Economic Times, Sept. 13, 1992]

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News and Notes

COPYRIGHT COUNCIL

The Federation of Indian Publishers has set up a copyright council and copyright centre to act as a clearing house for authors and publishers in India and abroad. President, Federation of Indian Publishers, D.N. Malhotra, says that the centre would have links with similar centres the world over when fully operational and would endeavour to spread an awareness on copyright matters.

FIP also proposes to set up a reprographic society to augment the income of authors and publishers.

[*The Observer, 3.9.92*]

AT BUTTON RECALL

Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC) has come out with *Tirtha*, a treasury of Indian cultural words. It has around 3,500 words relating to the Indian traditions and culture and is on lines of an encyclopaedia.

CMC's chairman and managing director, P.P. Gupta says that the idea is a borrowed one, from an American book called *What Every American Needs to Know*, written by E.D. Hirsch. He found out that an average American knows very little about his own culture. CMC is targetting at the NRIs.

Having developed the software to publish a book, CMC is hoping to take up book publishing in a big way. In the West, electronic books coming up on floppies and compact discs are even popular with the young. *The Economist* is now available on floppies. The floppies can be read on the backlit, black-on-white screens of the Apple Macintosh Power Book.

The *Tirtha* floppies have the software to search for the correct word, even if spelt wrong. There is also a browsing index with the help of which one can browse through the book.

[*The Observer, 4.8.92*]

INDIAN PUBLISHING TAKES A LEAP

First Indian publication on floppy diskette, *Directory of Government Libraries and Pay Scales*, has been recently released by Shipra Publications, Delhi. With this, a new era is said to have started in book industry. The book has been authored by M.K. Jain, Former Director, Planning Commission Library.

[*Press Release, Shipra Publications*]

PLEA FOR EXPORT INCENTIVES

"Government has been urged to grant more export incentives to the book publishing sector and treat it as an industry, as there is a "growing market" worldwide for books of Indian origin. Books on Indology, fine arts, culture, history, archaeology, religion, yoga and current affairs are much in demand and find their way into the developed world. Our text books on science and technology, particularly at the higher levels of education, are being studied by the students and teachers of developing countries," a statement released by D.K. Publishers and Distributors Ltd.—which claims to be the largest distributor of Indian books—says.

The statement was issued on the occasion of the annual meet of the International Federation of Library Associations in New Delhi.

The Indian media, both print and electronic, were also not giving adequate support to the spread of book-reading culture within the country, the statement said.

It, however, felt that there was a need for the book publishing industry in the country to give more attention to quality aspects, both contents-wise and production-wise. There was need to bother more about editorial inputs, choice of type-face, cover design, lay-out and texture of the paper used, it said.

D.K. Publishers, founded in 1968, started its *Low-price Publications* in 1989, producing reference books for personal libraries. It also has a *Books For All* series, under which informative books are released.

[*The Hindu, 4.9.1992*]

INFORMATION ENGINEERS

In 2001 AD, librarians will be called information engineers. Librarian's 'custodian of books' image will change to that of an information scientist. He won't be just somebody issuing membership cards or directing you to various book shelfs.

Neither will libraries be the same. A decade from now, the reader will not have to go through the rigmarole of looking at 10 volumes for a piece of information. With the computer technology, he will have access to all the information on the computer screen. Reams and reams of information will be capsuled in a pocket-sized disc. For lazy readers who cannot get through cumbersome reference, the 'Abstract Service' of the library will give a synopsis of the chapter which they don't have the patience to read.

This is what emerged from the six-day long International Conference of Library and Information Professionals, organised by the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), held recently.

[*The Pioneer, 1.9.92*]

BATHTUB BOOK

TENS of thousands of Japanese have scooped up copies of a waterproof English vocabulary book that turns the bathtub into a study hall, reports a news agency.

The book, entitled *Remembering English Vocabulary in the Bath*, looks like just another of the hundreds of English primers available in Japan. But its waterproof paper, made of synthetic polypropylene, sets it apart as do the booming sales bookstores.

A spokesman for the book's publisher, Kyogakusha, said 100,000 copies at $ 7.50 each have been sold since last year and the key to success was market research.

The spokesman said that some satisfied readers have even asked the company to put out a waterproof English-language tape as a companion to the book.

[*Economic Times, 13.9.92*]

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Forthcoming Books

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Book Reviews

ECOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION PROBLEM: PERSPECTIVES FROM INDIA, CHINA AND AUSTRALIA

K. Mahadevan, Chi-Hsien Tuan and V. Balakrishnan Nair (Eds.)

1992, xviii, 458pp., Tables, Figures, Royal Rs. 480 $ 50.00
ISBN 81-7018-735-4

Preservation of perfect eco-system assumed urgent importance throughout the world in the context of rapid population growth, depletion of natural resources and faster development of economy on a competitive basis. All this happened because *till recently development planners did not give any serious thought to the interrelationship between eco-system, rapid population growth and economic-cum-technological development of society*. The book eminently highlights these three vital issues here.

Among the contributors are some eminent scholars from the U.S.A., Russia, China, Australia and India and they belong to the diverse disciplines of agriculture, demography, geography, biology, economics and sociology.

Micro-level analytical discussion on inter-relationship between - the three said aspects in most of the major States in India makes this book indispensable for development planners, administrators, academicians, welfare workers and change agents, besides lovers of nature and those who believe in better quality of life.

THE ELDERLY POPULATION IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLD: POLICIES, PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

P. Krishnan & K. Mahadevan (Eds.)

1992, xvi, 510pp., Tables, Figures, Demy, 8vo., Rs. 395 $ 43.90
ISBN 81-7018-724-9

The diverse and comprehensive collection of papers presented in this book provide a valuable compendium of knowledge on senior (elderly) citizens hitherto unavailable in such terse form. It discuss the subject on inter-disciplinary basis and suggests ways and means of promoting their proper rehabilitation. It is as much useful for future research on the subject.

The book is global in outlook and pools information from both developed and developing countries.

It also touches upon the positive lifestyle of the elderly in China, Japan and India (Kurichia tribe) and says that this lifestyle has been responsible for their happy and long life. Problems relating to psychological phobias, environmental constraints, loss of identity and status, also problems resulting out of permanent dependency and geriatric cum-degenerative difficulties have also been discussed and their solutions suggested.

READINGS IN POPULATION RESEARCH: POLICY, METHODOLOGY AND PERSPECTIVES

P. Krishnan, Chi-Hsien Tuan and K. Mahadevan (Eds.)

1992, xii, 586pp (appr.), Tables, Figures, Demy 8vo. Rs. 450
$ 50.00
ISBN 81-7018-732-X

This book makes an interdisciplinary coverage of perspectives on policy, methodology, ecological and cultural basis and consequences of population growth as also the extensive review of population studies of the recent past in two major countries of Asia viz., China and India.

Among the contributors are some of the eminent scholars from countries like the U.S.A., Europe, Canada, China and India. The policy papers on Germany and Taiwan form two major models of success in population stabilisation in a developed and a developing country. *Freedman's paper* on Michigan model of population training may inspire appropriate human resource development in population studies.

The book also makes a good coverage of methodological issues on diverse themes. They include the data reduction on the basis of age and sex, computer application, measuring the delicate and difficult topic of study on abortion, overcoming the problems of data collection, analysis of data for different purposes like life table, regression based estimates, etc. In addition, two chapters devoted to the ecological consequences of rapid population growth and importance of ecological analysis in population studies enrich the coverage and value of this book.

A unique contribution in terms of status of population research conducted during 1970-90 in China and India, which may serve as a valuable source of reference to all the future researchers in this field.

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Editorial

THE ART OF DISCRIMINATION

The selection of books in libraries leaves much to be desired if one goes by the kind of books which adorn the shelves in libraries in general. The books which are to be selected in a library are selected by a certain process. Every academic library has a committee comprising representatives of the different subjects and other official members. The subject experts give their opinion on the kind of books which they get to choose from.

An efficient librarian usually makes out a list of the titles that the library already has. The titles recommended by the subject expert depend on his knowledge of the subject, the amount of extra reading done by him and an inquiring mind which goes into the depths of the subject. If the expert has the habit of reading book reviews which appear in the newspapers and research journals, a discerning eye will help him to pick the titles which he feels might interest the readers. An important point which needs to be kept in mind is the recency of a publication. A book if procured after a lapse of a year or two is not of as much use as a recent one which will contain up-to-date information on the subject. If all these qualities are present in the expert, there is nothing more one can ask for; it will ensure the presence of the choicest books in the library.

As to the number of copies of a title, it should be the contents of the books which decide the issue. A textbook or a book which is suggested in the syllabus needs to be represented by a sufficient number of copies. On the other hand, a 'general' book that will serve to increase the interest of the students in the subject and stimulate their intellectual yearnings need not be present in such great numbers. There are libraries which have a large stock of books but students do not find them useful. The result is that libraries are grossly under-utilized. Even if students feel inspired enough by the classroom lecture to visit the library, the sight of all the useless books puts them off.

The allocation of funds for the purpose is usually more than enough but the timing and usage are wrong. The funds are allocated in March which does not leave the librarian enough time to devote to book selection. Also, the funds are not used wisely. The selection of books needs a certain commitment which seems to be lacking. May be it is the power vested in librarians as the ultimate selectors which is responsible for the present condition of libraries. So I am all for various people deciding jointly which books should be chosen for the library. In these people, the students must be included and they must play a major part. For it is they who are the readers. They are the frequenters of libraries. They know which part of their subject is not covered adequately by the books placed at their disposal in the library. Their part may be limited to putting suggestion slips in the suggestion box if it is not feasible to include them on the Library Committee. If all constructive and valid suggestions are taken note of, I feel that this along with good knowledgeable experts may yet save our libraries from further decadence.

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News and Notes

COMMONWEALTH WRITERS' PRIZE

The 1992 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for the best first book in the Eurasian division has gone to 40-year old Calcutta - born Amit Chowdhury's *A Strange and Sublime Address*. It carries a cash award of two thousand pounds. The author has been commended for his "beautiful prose, vivid and fresh metaphoric imagination, gift for descriptive detail and apt simile".

The book has already won international acclaim and won the 1991 Betty Trask Award and also Guardian Fiction Prize.

[Source: Financial Express, Sept 13, 1992]

BOOK EXPORT COUNCIL

The Federation of Indian Publishers has created a new unit to be known as Book Export Council. This Council will promote Indian books in the international market in conjunction with government and non-government bodies. It will study export potential abroad and disseminate relevant information about Indian publishers.

Export of books and publications has risen from Rs. one crore in 1971 to Rs. 30 crore till now.

(Source: Financial Express, Sept. 13, 1992)

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(English version of the Kannada novel, *Vamshavriksha,* by S.L. Bhyrappa. Translated into English by K. Raghavendra Rao)

When she returned home in the evening, she was bursting with anxiety and tension. She was full of speculations regarding what her father-in-law would say and what she might have to do about it. A formless fear began to invade her being. Yet it was a day that would test her will power and her courage. She gathered all her courage as she entered the house. Shrothri was sitting in the front hall, engaged in a conversation with a visiting tenant. She made straight for the upstairs hall. She did not have the courage to look at her mother-in-law's face. But her father-in-law, she knew well, would not lose his temper even under the most trying

asked, "Father, will you come upstairs with me for a while, please?"

"Of course. You go and I shall be with you soon."

She once again went upstairs. After two minutes, he also came up. As he was proceeding to his study, he said, "Follow me." When she entered the room, he was seated near the window on the tiger skin. She stood near the pillar. He said, "Please come closer, and sit down." Then she moved a little closer and sat on the carpet. There was silence for a while between the two.

After a pause of five minutes, she spoke, ruffling the frozen silence of her pain," Did you read my letter?"

"Yes. I did."

"I beg you to give your consent."

After a minute's silence, Shrothri spoke in his calm, even tone, "You see, there is no question of my approving or disapproving. You are free to do as you please."

Kathyayani had mentally equipped herself with all sorts of eds of arguments to n. Now they had all like an empty, broken if a woman suffers a ercome it and return to imes but a woman can s world has refused to ure with sympathy.

'Please let us not now the social order or the decisions and choices responsibilities, and

son to live an effective

s not the only Dharma. s not the enjoyment of rpetuation of the family amily tree grows, if by s not Dharma to return

to say. Shrothri kept umb like statues.

and reached the hall yani realised that that day she had not prepared the beds for her parents-in-law and Cheeni, she felt the realisation stab her. She got up and went to her sleeping place. She unrolled the bed and slumped on it. She felt utterly exhausted, all her strength gone. She felt as if the natural vitality that was flowing through her with tumultous force had dried up. She huddled herself on the bed like a bird that had collapsed to the ground with broken wings after journeying tens and tens of miles and then she went to sleep.

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At eight thirty, Shrothri (Kathyayani's father-in-law) himself called her to come down for the dinner, after he had completed his worshipping ritual. Gathering enough courage once again, she came down. As usual Shrothri and Cheeni were squatting ready to eat the meal, and the mother-in-law was serving them. The atmosphere was still. Shrothri was eating, his head bent low. Cheeni, more interested in playing with the food than eating it, was scattering the rice around, as his grand-mother gently chided him while continuing to serve him. After the uneventful meal, Kathyayani once again returned to her hide-out upstairs. Shrothri caught sight of her as she was climbing the steps of the stair-case. He didn't say anything. This total silence was too much for Kathyayani, and she would have welcomed his disapproval even. But this chilling silence, perhaps a symbolic silence, was beyond her coping. Restlessly she was fidgeting. At last she mustered enough courage to come down. Shrothri was sitting in the hall. Though he was holding a bundle of palm-leaf manuscript, his eyes were turned towards the rafters in the ceiling. He was obviously buried in deep thought. Moving closer to him, she asked, "Father, will you come upstairs with me for a while, please?"

"Of course. You go and I shall be with you soon."

She once again went upstairs. After two minutes, he also came up. As he was proceeding to his study, he said, "Follow me." When she entered the room, he was seated near the window on the tiger skin. She stood near the pillar. He said, "Please come closer, and sit down." Then she moved a little closer and sat on the carpet. There was silence for a while between the two.

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"I beg you to give your consent."

After a minute's silence, Shrothri spoke in his calm, even tone, "You see, there is no question of my approving or disapproving. You are free to do as you please."

Kathyayani had mentally equipped herself with all sorts of weapons. She had prepared hundreds of arguments to establish the propriety of her decision. Now they had all melted into thin air, and her head was like an empty, broken pot. She replied, "In our social order, if a woman suffers a catastrophe, there is no way she can overcome it and return to normalcy. A widower can re-marry ten times but a woman can never re-marry. Right from the start, this world has refused to understand a woman's inner nature with sympathy. Moreover....."

Interrupting her mid-way, he said, "Please let us not now enter into a debate or discussion over the social order or the behaviour of the world..... But all our decisions and choices should conform to our Dharma, responsibilities, and obligations. Don't you agree?"

"Isn't it a natural Dharma for a person to live an effective life of a householder at the proper age?"

Smiling, he said, "Natural Dharma is not the only Dharma. The ultimate and supreme goal of life is not the enjoyment of life as a householder. Its goal is the perpetuation of the family tree, continuation of its life. After the family tree grows, if by chance the family life is terminated, it is not Dharma to return to it."

After that she did not know what to say. Shrothri kept silent. For full ten minutes, both stood dumb like statues.

He climbed down the steps slowly and reached the hall where he usually slept. When Kathyayani realised that that day she had not prepared the beds for her parents-in-law and Cheeni, she felt the realisation stab her. She got up and went to her sleeping place. She unrolled the bed and slumped on it. She felt utterly exhausted, all her strength gone. She felt as if the natural vitality that was flowing through her with tumultous force had dried up. She huddled herself on the bed like a bird that had collapsed to the ground with broken wings after journeying tens and tens of miles and then she went to sleep.

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Biography and Immortal Work of Sarat Chandra Chatterjee

THE GREAT VAGABOND

by Vishnu Prabhakar • 1990 XXVII, 393, 1 illus
ISBN 81-7018-587-4 • Rs. 95

Sarat never raised the superstructures of his novels on the basis of myths. He thought it was basically wrong to do so.

There are many versions as to where he drew his inspiration for writing this (Bamoner Meye) novel. According to one version he suddenly felt an urge to visit his village and boarded a steamer going in that direction. The steamer touched the landing ghat late at night. Sarat was feeling tired and hungry. Entering the nearby village he rested for a while at the bania's shop and bought some refreshments from him. This refreshed, he resumed his journey and came to a Brahmin's house enroute. The lady of the house was a *Vaisak* widow and finding a guest on her hands she invited him to take his meal. Sarat took his bath at the village pond and when he returned he found the woman waiting for him to light the hearth to cook food for him. "Would you like to cook your own food?" she asked Sarat.

What was the significance of cooking his own food in the house of a Kulin Brahmin, Sarat could not understand. However, the woman cooked the food for him which he ate after some hesitation. On his way out from the village he passed by the same bania's shop. "Thakur, so you have defiled yourself? the bania taunted him.

Sarat learnt that the lady of the house who was a Kulin Brahmin had married a low caste *shudra*. This was the genesis of Sarat's novel.

According to another version he had told Avinash Chandra Ghoshal, "I have no hesitation in telling you about the incident which inspired me to write *Bamoner Meye*. You know a woman sells *paans* at Kolaghat station. It is not uncommon for women to sell *paan* but this woman looks so different from other women. She aroused my curiosity and I drew her in a conversation. In *Bamoner Meye* I have drawn Priya Mukherji's mother's character who has a stigma against her name. She is the same *paan*-selling woman whose son is a high government official. People close to him think that his mother became insane and went away from home or she is dead. Now tell me is that the end of their problem or the beginning of it? This man holding a high position has no right to be proud of his high family and claim to be called a *bhadra lok* when he has not cared to know why his mother deserted the family and is now rotting on the road."

Maybe Sarat had come across many such instances which formed the basis of his novel. He never wrote a novel on the basis of a solitary instance. His mind was a repository of experiences gathered over a long period of time and he drew from them while writing his novels. It was the cumulative effect of those experiences. It had taken him many years to write *Grihadaha*. In a letter dated March 13, 1914 he had written to his childhood friend, Pramath Babu, "I'm writing a novel tentatively named *Grihadaha*."

Later on he had remarked, "This novel would in no way be inferior to Ravi Babu's *Ghare Baire*."

Hamendra Kumar Roy had asked him, "Have you finished your novel?"

"No, I haven't even started writing it?"

"Then how can you compare something that does not even exist with *Ghare Baire*?"

Alluding to *Grihadaha* Hamendra Kumar Roy had again observed, "Sarat had just started writing the novel when he realised that it could in no way come up to the standard of *Ghare Baire*. To tell the truth it can't stand up to *Ghare Baire*. Rather it does not even hold a high position among Sarat Babu's novels."

There is no manner of doubt that Sarat Chandra is indebted to his predecessor Bankim Chandra and also to Rabindranath. If a husband is disappointed with his wife for one reason or the other it should not cause any surprise if he wanders from the path of rectitude. That is the theme of Bankim Chandra's novel *Chandra Shekhar* and Rabindranath's *Ghare Baire*. In *Grihadaha* too Sarat has tried to make the same point through the medium of Mahim and Achala. But Sarat's adroitness and literary virtuosity are entirely his own. There are differences of opinion about *Grihadaha*. The historian Sukumar Sen is in agreement with Hamendra Kumar Roy but Surendranath and other maintain that *Grihadaha* is not only a good example of Sarat's profound thinking but it also holds a high place among his novels. Undoubtedly it is a literary creation of a high order. Much later Dr. Romesh Chandra Majumdar had asked Sarat, "Which one do you regard as outstanding among yo9ur novels?"

Sarat Babu had spontaneously replied, "From the point of view of art *Grihadaha* is flawless."

Dr. Majumdar was in no mood to agree with him. But whether it was his outstanding novel or not, or whether it was patterned after *Ghare Baire* or *Gora*, there are no two opinions about it that it had shaken the foundations of our society, specially the Brahmo Samaj. The followers of Brahmo Samaj had refused to give it a place in their libraries.

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ADI SANKARA AND SRI AUROBINDO

V. Narayan Karan Reddy

1992, vi + 86pp
ISBN 81-7018-726-5, **Rs. 70**

Adi Sankara and Sri Aurobindo, though born in India at different times, belonged to the entire universe. Both were thinkers *par excellence*. Both talked of the Spiritual Man and the Superman. But Sankara showed the path of liberation and Aurobindo that of transformation and total change. Sankara's exposition of the nature of ultimate reality confirms in us the belief that man is in essence spirit and it is forgetting this truth that leads to different sorts of miseries. On the contrary, Aurobindo argued out a case in favour of collectivity, progress and perfection on the one hand and existence of the supra-rational awareness or consciousness on the other.

An excellent exposition of the philosophies of two great savants which should stimulate ideas and enrich lives. A must-reading for all those who seek a clear peep into the meaning of life.

ICONOGRAPHY OF SIVA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SELECT TEMPLES IN NORTHERN ANDHRA

A. Kamala Vasini

1992, xxxvi + 254pp; 48 plates
ISBN 81-7018-651-X, **Rs. 950**

An icon has mystic powers. The inner meaning of image-worship is to worship the invisible through the visible. Nowhere people worship mere wood or stone or metal. It is the Divine Essence, invoked by the power of *mantra* and *puja* which has become the object of worship in the image. Icon images reflect the mind of the adorer. They also help settle an unsettled mind through the law of association.

Iconography of Siva goes behind all these nuances and helps understand the subject in its totality, with focus on twenty five select temples of Andhra Pradesh. Profusely illustrated with line drawings and charts and lusciously produced (double demy size) with an attractive cover, it should make a proud possession of all the significant libraries and museums and should be collector's delight.

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In this work, an effort has been made to supply the long-felt need for a dictionary of Hindu names. A dictionary of Hindu names together with their meanings and background, as far as possible, is amongst the few neglected studies by the Indologists. We hope that this is a good attempt to fill the void created. The main portion of this work consists of names from Vedas, Puranas, Mahabharata, Ramayana and Sanskrit dictionaries. A good and meaningful name is a symbol of cultural heritage and it should be able to focus the image of the person within a word or two. Hindu culture, with its Sanskrit literature, has been famous in developing such a taste which is found illustrated in its every walk of life. There is not a single Hindu name which does not speak of its heritage, ancestory, character and personality in detail. This is what we have tried to demonstrate in this book. Having considered the vastness of the field of personal names, and the fabulous nature of the wealth of Sanskrit literature, we had to confine ourselves in our effort, to some examplary works of not a given period, but from the Vedic times to the present day.

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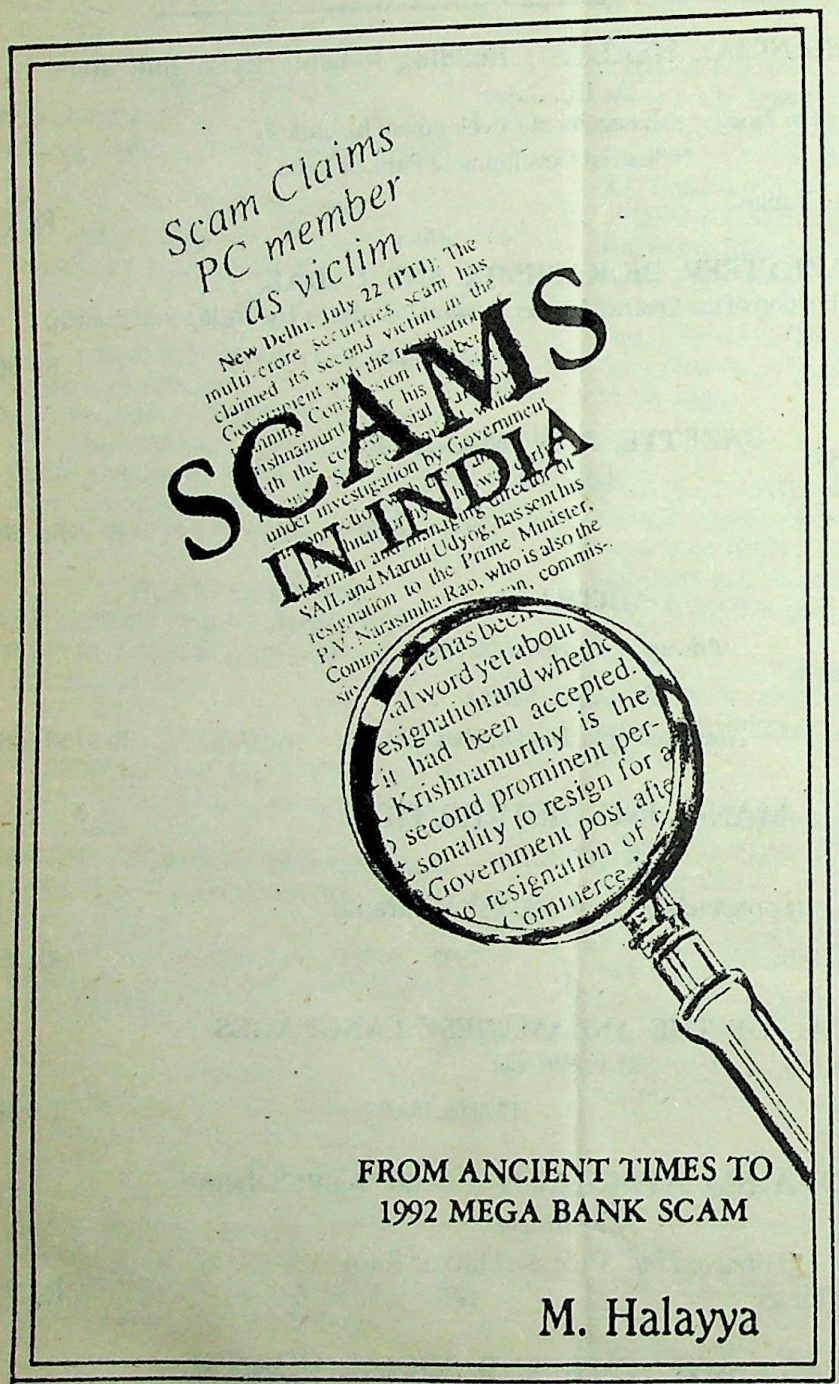

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Editorial

SOME DOs FOR PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

It is true the electronic media and audio-visual aids are presently playing a major role in imparting information and education, but the importance of the books cannot be ignored or underestimated. The books hold mirror to the cultural heritage, traditions and the character of a society. The books, apart from giving information and entertainment to readers, breed creativity in them.

On the other hand, society too has an obligation to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the benefit of reading. The producers and distributors of books too have an obligation to ensure that the harbingers of information and ideas continue to meet the changing needs of the readers and of the society as a whole.

In the Indian context, where multiple of caste, creed and colour are to be handed with care and a strong national unity is the need of the hour, achievement of such a goal is necessary. One need not say that the capacity of a country to produce, publish and distribute books on all subjects of knowledge is an index of its progress. A developing country like India, in view of this, should encourage and sustain the appetite for new knowledge and initiate well-organised plans for growth of literacy. Millions of readers are facing an attack from electronic media. After a day-long work, they are unable to devote time to book reading. Even if they want to read the books, an average reader does not want to buy the books all at once. There is a special class of readers like authors, professors and intellectuals which takes to literary books. Such potential rich human resource must be tapped by producing quality books. The taste of one reader differs from another according to age. The housewives prefer to read books on child-care, and dish-making. These books have a great demand. There is need to make available cheap and entertaining reading material for neo-literates, school-drop-outs and children as well as to improve their vocational skills, earning, health, family life and understanding of the natural and social environment.

In short, to use the books as effective tools for alround development, it is pertinent that the publishing industry is supplied adequate quantity of paper at affordable price. A sound sale and distribution network in both rural and urban sectors should be set up. The public and private sectors should join hands in setting up R and D centres to find remedial measures to the problems which have hindered the growth of publishing-industry.

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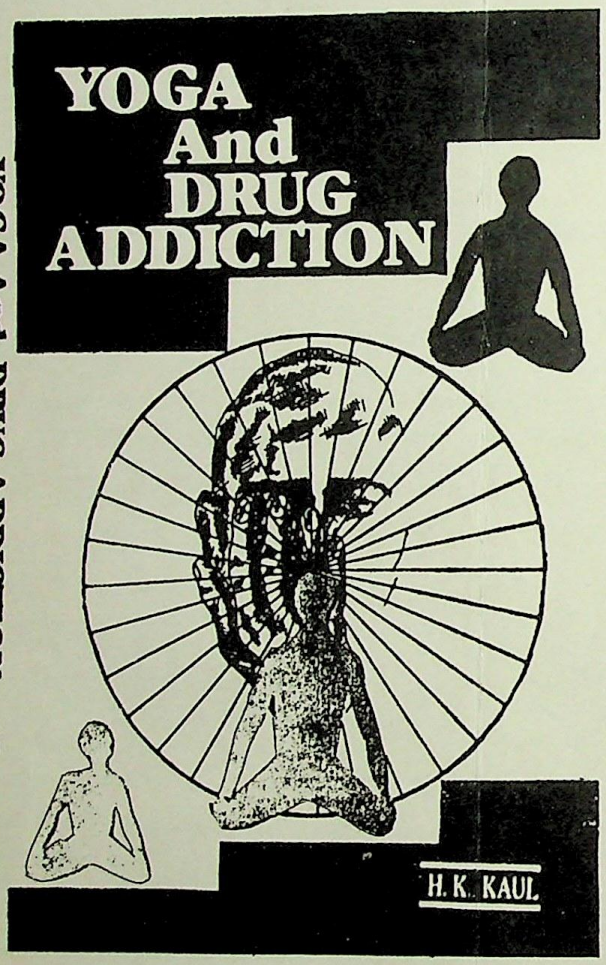

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Seminar on Yoga and Drug Addiction

A three-day seminar starting on December 6, 1992 was held at Bhopal to underline the role of Yoga in de-addicting drug addicts. It was organised by the Indian Council for Research in Yoga (Bhopal) and inaugurated by Shri Sunderlal Patwa, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh. Over two hundred people from different walks of life, participated in it.

A book entitled 'Yoga and Drug Addiction', authored by H.K. Kaul and published by M/s B.R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi-7 was released on the occasion. The book deals with the problem of drug addiction in all its aspects and gives practical guidance as to how it could be eradicated through Yoga, especially among the youth and sportsman. The author has built up the thesis that Yoga is the real giver of peace.

The guiding force behind this occasion was Yogaratna Dr. K.M. Ganguly, founder of the Indian Council for Research in Yoga who was felicitated on the occasion along with Shri Praveen Mittal of M/s B.R. Publishing Corporation and Smt. Aruna Kapoor, an author and communicator.

73-year old Dr. Ganguly inherited the Yoga knowledge from his father, late Shri T.M. Ganguly who was a well-known educationist, philanthropist and yoga therapist. He started teaching Yoga at the age of nineteen, and perfected himself in the art under the guidance of Paramhans Swami Satyananda Saraswati, founder Bihar School of Yoga (Monghur). He is an eminent therapist and has cured over thirty-five thousand patients, having various ailments. He also runs a Charitable Homeopathic Dispensary at Bhopal where he has been since 1956 and works for national integration. He has also keen interest in sports and has looked after the engineering aspect of many temples and ashrams. Despite his age, he works for 16 to 18 hours a day.

Dr. Ganguly has been bestowed many honours for his contribution to the teaching and spread of Yoga.

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News and Notes

BETTER - OFF LOT

Indian writers, writing in English are now a better - off lot–both in terms of fame and fortune, and are being increasingly sought after by western publishers, says an Economic Times (Oct 24, 1992) write-up.

It all started with Booker Prize winning author Salman Rushdie's *Midnight Children*. A huge success, the book helped rewrite the western world's perception of the Indian author . . . Perhaps the most important factor contributing to the new-found recognition of Indian talent has been the style of writing. After being fed a rather 'genteel' diet of Anita Desai, Nayantara Sehgal and R.K. Narayan for decades, the western reader is now looking for more energetic and bold writing from this part of the world.

PILFERAGE OF BOOKS IN U.K. LIBRARIES

It may surprise many readers to learn that libraries in the U.K. lose over ten million books every year due to theft. The subject categories which suffer the most are the sex manuals and theological texts. Book traders and librarians feel that theological texts are high on the theft lists because they tend to be expensive; sex manuals are stolen because readers are embarrassed at being seen with them at the issuing counter.

[The Hindustan Times, Oct. 31, 1992— Between Covers]

BEST BOOKS - WORST REVIEWS

Rotten Review II: A Literary Companion, is a compilation of worst notices some of the best books of our time have attracted from reviewers. It has been edited by Bill Henderson.

In his informed, lucid introduction to the book, writer Anthony Brandt points out numerous instances where reviewers have been spectacularly wrong and where history has vindicated writers . . . For a malicious reviewer, whose masterpiece of vituperation is not tampered with knowledge and a basic understanding of what the writer is attempting to do, can be a very dangerous creature indeed.

Here is what reviewers had to say about some of the great books of our time:

The New Republic in its review of *Naked Lunch* by William Burroughs– "... the merest trash, not worth a second look."

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New Statesman (Paul Theroux) in its review of *Fear of Flying* by Eric Jong– "This crappy novel, misusing vulgarity to the point where it becomes purely foolish, picturing women as a hapless organ animated by the simplest ridicule and devaluing imagination in every line... represents everything that is to be loathed in American fiction today."

Time magazine, reviewing *A House of Mr Biswas* by V.S. Naipaul–"Naipaul's House though built of excellent exotic materials, says badly: economy, style and a less elastic blueprint would have done wonders."

[The Hindu: Oct. 25, 1992]

THE KNOWN INDIAN

Niard C. Chaudhuri, whose contempt for most things Indian is well known, gets the title of honorary Commander of the British Empire at the age of 95. His *The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian* received international recognition in 1951 and made him a known Indian. His latest, *Thy Hand, Great Anarch* also revolves around Indo-British relations.

[The Observer, Oct. 29, 1992]

JOURNALISTIC NOVEL

"I would not go far as to say the novel is dead. It's the kind of comment that doesn't mean much in any case. It is only the prevailing fashions among novelists that are washed up. I think there is a tremendous future for a sort of novel that will be called the journalistic novel or perhaps documentary novel, novels of intense social realism based upon the same painstaking reporting that goes into the New Journalism..."

[Tom Wolfe in The New Journalism. The Observer, Oct. 6, 1992]

GROW WITH BOOKS

The National Book Week launched on Nov. 14 by the National Book Trust had 'Grow with Books' as it theme.

At a press conference, addressed by the NBT Chairman. Prof. U.R. Anantha Murthy, it was disclosed that pilot projects for establishing readers' clubs had been initiated at Bangalore and Guwahati, and a similar project would be initiated in Bhubaneswar. The Trust was also taking steps, he said, to improve availability of books for children.

[Financial Express, Nov. 14, 1992]

ASIAN PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

D.N. Malhotra, President, Federation of Indian Publishers' has been elected Vice-President of the Asian Publishers' Association.

Asian Publishers' Association was formed at Tokyo where publishers from 12 Asian countries met for deliberations. It aims at promoting amity amongst publishers of Asian countries.

[Rashtriya Sahara, Nov. 8, 1992]

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Forthcoming Books

- **Access to Justice–A Case for Basic Change/** *V.R. Krishna Iyer*
- **The Canadian Novel: A Search for Identity/** *M.F. Salat*
- **Children at Work: Problems and Policy Options/** *B.P. Singh & Shukla Mohanty (Ed.)*
- **Classic Literature of the East: The Upanishads/** *Bibek Debroy and Dipavali Debroy*
- **A Companion to Indian Philosophy/** *Sures Chandra Banerji*
- **Computing Mathematical Techniques in Geography: A Basic Approach/** *Saraj K. Paul*
- **The Image of Women in Indian Literature/** *Yashoda Bhat (Ed.)*
- **Janata Party Experiment: An Insider's Account of Opposition Politics 1975-80/** *Madhu Limaye*
- **Marketing of Perishable Products/** *K.C. Talukdar & B.C. Bhowmick (Eds.)*
- **The Midnight Moon and Other Stories/** *Kishori Charan Das*
- **Plant Wealth of the Lower Ganga-Delta: An Eco-Taxonomical Approach/** *K.R. Naskar*
- **Waiting for Sunrise/** *Himanshu Joshi (Tr.) Jai Ratan*
- **World History: New Horizons/** *Jagdish P. Sharma*

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Book Reviews

SCAMS IN INDIA: FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO 1992 MEGA BANK SCAM

M. Halayya
x, + 270pp., 4 tables, 2 figs.
ISBN 81-7018-727-3
Rs. 175

Corruption has come to stay as an accepted way of life in India. People, in general, are of the view that anyone in a seat of power, can make a fast buck.

The author suggests the establishment of a statutory body with authorisation to launch inquiries, independent of the government of the day, to root out this evil. He also suggests a multi-pronged attack on the bribe-giver and the bribe-take.

Result of extensive research. A mass of data presented here enhances its value.

DR. AMBEDKAR AND PUNJAB

D.C. Ahir
1992, viii + 142pp.
ISBN 81-7018-736-2
Rs. 125

Punjab had a sort of romantic relation with Dr. Ambedkar. It begins with Ad Dharm movement which was making waves there prior to his advent.

Dr. Ambedkar visited Punjab three times - in 1932, 1936 and 1951, and made three gifts to the people of Punjab. The Jat - Pat - Todak Mandal (1936) episode is well-known.

This is the first book of it kind, focussing light on a specific aspect of Dr. Ambedkar's Life. It has been authored by D.C. Ahir, a Buddhist of distinction and a scholar of repute.

BETWEEN THE REAL AND SURREAL: MODERNISM AND THE AVANT-GARDE IN THE AMERICAN DRAMA OF THE NINETEEN SIXTIES *New World Literature Series - 59*

B. Yugendernath
1992, xii + 246pp.
ISBN 81-7018-725-7
Rs. 190

The American drama of the nineteen sixties is a significant phenomenon in many ways. It displays an intellectual eclecticism, unmatched in the dramatic history of any country that sharpens its intellectual imagination and sophisticates its dramatic and theoretical practice. Expressionistically fluid to the point of dramatic dissolution, and, yet essentially literary, the drama of the decade evolves the broadest pattern of dramatic elasticity. Similarly, the decade's theatre opens up new explorative channels in its attempts to achieve theatricality through the expressive uses of human body and mind. Both present alternatives of response to the sense of cultural failure in the decade. The former offers a self-preserving existential repose and the latter projects a self-liberating iconoclastic euphoria. They are endeavours for an authentic cultural reappraisal.

The first four chapters lucidly detail the historical and intellectual growth of dramatic modernism and theatrical avant-gardism. With

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varying focus on playwrights, plays, theatres and theatrical movements, the remaining five chapters examine, critically, the American drama of the sixties from the standpoint of cultural exegesis, dramatic form and theatrical action.

For the students and scholars of modern drama, the manuscript provides critical insights into the very nature of dramatic reality and imagination over the last century. The bibliography at the end offers a comprehensive guide to the study of modern drama.

THE UPROOTED

Translation of the Original Novel Vamshavriksha in Kannada,
New World Literature Series - 61

S.L. Bhyrappa

1992, x + 342pp.
ISBN 81-7018-734-6
Rs. 140 (P.B.)

The Uprooted is the English version of the well-known novel in Kannada entitled *Vamshavriksha* by the celebrated novelist Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa. This novel created a stir in the Kannada literary world, making its author a celebrity overnight. That is the magic, the hypnotic spell of this highly absorbing social novel depicting poignantly the human story of a young widow torn between her love and her child. The novel is the creative and artistic presentation of the psychological and philosophical dimensions of the geneology as the preserver and the transmitter of cultural values and norms. In a family dominated by traditional values, the remarriage of the widowed daughter-in-law comes as a shocking external assault and the discovery of the real origins of the head of the household builds up the dramatic climax of this novel. Acclaimed by discerning critics as a modern Indian classic, this novel has been translated into several Indian languages–an eloquent testimony to its being truly a great Indian novel.

This Kannada novel bagged the coveted literary award of the Karnataka State Academi of Letters in 1967. The Kannada Film based on this novel won the prestigious Golden Lotus Award of the Government of India in 1972.

THE MIST

(Translated from Hindi Dhundh Ke Galiare
New World Literature Series - 63

Aruna Kapoor

1992, iv + 106pp.
ISBN 81-7018-741-9
Rs. 70 (P.B.)

The Mist is the story of Priya, a young woman, a paragon of beauty, who is worsted by different men and women, even her close relatives, only because she does not conform to the traditional values and wants to carve out a niche for herself. But she does not yield. She stands up to every situation and gives a last ditch fight. Towards the end, she does remove the mist around her but only to become part of it.

A touching account of a women's saga of love and sacrifice.

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Books Released During NOVEMBER Subject Wise

IN ENGLISH

AGRICULTURE:ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR: A Study in Pondicherry /D P R Reddy & N S R Sastry & R R Hermon 225

AGRICULTURE:ECONOMICS

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND PRICE POLICY IN INDIA /Ashok Kumar 200

AGRICULTURE:FORESTRY:DICTIONARY

DICTIONARY OF SILVICULTURE / S S Sagwal 195

AGRICULTURE:FORESTRY:PLANTATION

PRODUCTIVITY STUDIES IN MYSORE GUM (Eucalyptus Hybrid) /Kodira A Kushalapa 300

AGRICULTURE:FORESTRY:WOOD:DICTIONARY

DICTIONARY OF WOOD TECHNOLOGY / S S Sagwal 195

AGRICULTURE:PLANTATION

BIOCHEMICAL METHODS FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES /A Manikam & S Sadasivam (P.B.)70

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT: Commemoration Volume in the Honour of Professor I.P.Singh /R Malhotra (Ed.) 350

SCIENCE CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT (Prof.L.K.Mahapatra Felicitation Volume) /K C Tripathy & N K Behura (Ed.) 400

ANTHROPOLOGY:SHERPA

SHERPA OF KHUMBU: People, Livestock and Landscape (Studies in Social Ecology & Environmental History) /Barbara Brower (P.B.)110

ANTHROPOLOGY:TRIBAL:NAGA

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF NAGAS: The Thanghkul Nagas /M Horam 40

ASTROLOGY

A COURSE IN INDIAN ASTROLOGY (Graded Approach) /K P Dharmaraja Iyer & N E Muthuswamy (P.B.)80

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

I AM MY OWN MODEL: An Autobiography / B D Jatti 150

BIOLOGY

BUSINESS OF LIVING: An Acquaintance with Biology /Sandhya Mitra (P.B.)150

LASERS IN CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES /H M Chawla & S Chopra (Ed.) 250

BIOLOGY:NEUROBIOLOGY

NERVOUS SYSTEMS (Principles of Design and Function) /R Naresh Singh 500

BOTANY

THE ALPINE AND SUB-ALPINE VEGETATION OF SOUTH-EAST SIKKIM (2nd Indian Reprint) /W W Smith 250

BOTANY:PLANT PATHOLOGY

THE BACTERIA /Jeevan P Verma (Ed.) 250

COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT: Issues and Perspectives /S R Mehta (Ed.) 300

COMMUNICATION:FIBRE OPTICS:PHYSICS

FUNDAMENTALS OF FIBRE OPTICS IN TELECOMMUNICATION AND SENSOR SYSTEMS /Bishnu P Pal (Ed.) 650

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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Concept Structure and Development / P C Jain 300

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DICTIONARY:TIBET-SANSKRIT

TIBETAN-SANSKRIT DICTIONARY: Supplementary Volume I /Lokesh Chandra 600

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THE TRADE DIRECTORY COIMBATORE 375

ECONOMICS

INDIAN ECONOMY IN TRANSITION STRUCTURAL REFORMS /A V Bhuleshkar & D M Mithani (Ed.) 500

INDIAN ECONOMY: Emerging Challenges in 2 Vols. /Hemlata Rao & V K R V Rao & Vinod Vyasulu (Ed.) (Set)650

TRENDS IN INDIAN ECONOMY IN 6 VOLS. / Devendra Thakur (Ed.) (Set)3000

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FINANCING OF STATE FIVE YEAR PLANS IN INDIA /Siddharth Shastri 325

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A HANDBOOK OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT /N Ramaswami 175

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INDIA A THOUSAND FACES / Frank Bracho (P.B.)70

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ALTERNATIVE LIQUID FUELS (ERG Review Series) /Ashok V Desai (Ed.) (P.B.)110

ENERGY:ATOMIC

ATOMIC ENERGY IN INDIA / Shubhra Chakravarty 295

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DESIGN OF MAGNETIC COMPONENTS FOR SWITCHED MODE POWER CONVERTERS /L Umanand & S R Bhat (P.B.)60

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GEOTECHNIQUE TODAY: PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIAN GEOTECHNICAL Conference 1992 Calcutta, 18-20 December 1992 Vol.1 (P.B.)500

HISTORY:ANC.:ARCH.: ICONOGRAPHY:TEMPLES:SIVA

ICONOGRAPHY OF SIVA: With Special Reference to Select Temples in Northern Andhra /A Kamala Vasini 950

HISTORY:ANCIENT:ARCHAEOLOGY

NEW TRENDS IN INDIAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY: S.R. Rao's 70th Birthday Felicitation Volume in 2 Vols. /B U Nayak & N C Ghosh (Ed.) 2000

HISTORY:ANCIENT:ARCHAEOLOGY:IRON

THE EARLY USE OF IRON IN INDIA /Dilip K Chakrabarti 300

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ROME AND INDIA (The Ancient Sea Trade) / Richard Daniel De Puma & Vimala Begley (Ed.) 800

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IMPORTANT BOOKS ON ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
FROM ADITYA PRAKASHAN

Dawn and Devolution of the Indus Civilization

S.R. RAO

pp. xiv, 392, 72 illus., 155 pls. (some col.), bib., ind., 29cm., 1991 ISBN 81-85179-74-3 **Rs. 1600**

The Indus (Harappa) Civilization dominated the Indian subcontinent for more than 700 years from 2400 to 1700 BC. Even now it is a living civilization in the sense that the essential elements of the civilization such as religion, philosophy, the art of writing and the science of yoga have greatly influenced the thought process and lifestyle of the people of India and the neighbouring countries in South Asia. But certain misconceptions about the end of the Indus Civilization and its contributions to world thought, culture and material progress still prevail. This book removes these misconceptions and highlights the survival of the Indus Civilization in a less sophisticated deurbanised form for a few more centuries outside the Indus Valley but making substantial contribution to later civilization. The author puts forth convincing evidence to prove that the decline of Indus Valley cities was not due to the invasion of "barbaric Aryans unsympathetic to civilization" but due to natural calamities such as floods, dessication and tectonic activity.

The book is profusely illustrated with charts, maps, tables and photographs of excavations of all important sites.

New Trends In Indian Art And Archaeology

S.R. Rao's 70th Birthday Felicitation Volume (2 Volumes)
B.U. Nayak and N.C. Ghosh (eds.)

pp. xl, 592, 77 illus., 152 pls., 30cm., 1992 ISBN 81-85689-12-1 (set) **Rs. 2000 (set)**

In recent years research has taken a new turn, which aims at bringing the humanities and sciences closer for an overall evaluation of human achievements and failures during the last 5000 years. An objective assessment of historical events and personalities has been the new trend in historical research, as greater emphasis is now laid on archaeological evidence.

This book is being presented to Dr. S.R. Rao, on his 70th birthday, as a tribute to his discoveries at Lothal and Dvaraka and efforts to decode the Indus script and conserve monuments which have set new trends in archaeology.

The present volume is a modest account of the latest researches in the field of history, archaeology, art, culture, epigraphy, marine archaeology and related scientific subjects. Eminent historians, archaeologists, epigraphists, art critics, and marine archaeologists have enhanced the value of the book by contributing very important research papers. The contributors are: Dr. A.K. Sharma, S.B. Ota, Dr. Subrata Chakrabarti, Prof. V. Rami Reddy, Krishna Kumar, J.S. Nigam, Dr. Amarendra Nath, Prof. R.C. Gaur, Prof. P.V. Pathak, L.S. Rao, Prof. P.N. Mathur, Prof. Benille Priyanka, Prof. W.W. de Grummond, Prof. Subhash C. Kak, Prof. N.C. Ghosh, Dr. R. Tirumalai, Dr. C. Margabandhu, Prof. Ajay Mitra Shastri, Prof. A.K. Pattanayak, Dr. K. Rajan, Prof. K.D. Bajpai, Prof. S.K. Pathak, Dr. Narendra Kumar Dash, Prof. Ratan Parimoo, B.L. Nagarch, K.V. Soundara Rajan, Dr. D. Dayalan, Dr. R. Nagaswamy, Prof. Walter M. Spink, Dr. Nalini Rao, C.T.M. Kotraiah, K.M. Suresh, Dr. Mahesh G. Sinai Netravalkar, Dr. R. Sengupta, Anuragini Rao, Caroline Dias, Dr. L.N. Raut, Dr. B.K. Sinha, P. Jayakumar, Dr. I.K. Sarma, Dr. T.C.S. Rao, Captain K.R. Sreenivasan, Mensun Bound, David McLeod, A. Tchernia, P. Pomey, Dr. B.U. Nayak, Sundaresh, P. Gudigar, Sila Tripati, A.S. Gaur, Dr. L.B. Kenny, Dr. Rajiv Nigam, Neloy Khare, Dr. M.D. Sampath, Dr. G.S. Dikshit, Prof. G. Venkatasubiah, Prof. K.R. Alur, S.B. Roy, Prof. S. Gururajachar, S. Subramonia Iyer and K.K. Muhammed.

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Perspectives of Archaeology, Art and Culture in Early Andhra Deśa

K. Ramamohan Rao

pp. xiv, 150, 4 illus., 12 pages of pls., 29cm., 1992 ISBN 81-85689-01-6 **Rs. 425**

The Andhras have left some glorious monuments which are cherished with reverence and pride by the people of the country and it will be in the fitness of things if the history and religions and cultural ideals of their founders are studied in a more scientific manner and in greater detail.

In the present volume, a sincere effort has been made to present a complete survey of archaeology, art and culture in early Andhra Desa, and in doing so both the literary and the archaeological sources, have as far as practicable, been thoroughly utilised. This work is mainly based on archaeology, rather than other traditional historical evidences, and an attempt has been made to give a clear understanding to the readers and also to distinguish how archaeology contributes to history in bridging up the lacunae.

The Problems of Aryan Origins

From an Indian point of view (Revised and enlarged edition)

K.D. Sethna

pp. xv, 443, 1 pl., 23cm., 1992 ISBN 81-85179-67-0 **Rs. 450**

This volume takes up "from an Indian Point of View" a cluster of important historical questions about India's most ancient past and formulates fresh answers to them in great detail with the temper of a scrupulous scholar. Archaeology, linguistics and literature were pressed into service so as to leave no loose ends. In the process a comprehensive framework got built for the insights and researches of contemporary India's greatest seer and thinker: Sri Aurobindo. This edition, extensively enlarged with five supplements, demonstrates for the period after 1980—at still greater length—with the same tools of widespread scholarship the validity of the first edition's thesis.

The Legacy of Muslim Rule In India

K.S. Lal

pp. vi, 406, 22 cm., 1992 ISBN 81-85689-03-2 **Rs. 350**

The present volume provides a thorough analysis as to what irrepairable damage has been done to this country by the Muslim rule of a thousand years. But still India has survived with a Hindu ethos. Had India been completely conquered and converted to Muhammadanism, its people would have taken pride in the victories and achievements of Islam.

This book offers a close scrutiny of the nature of the Muslim rule, how it always remained foreign in character, seeking recognition from the Caliph, maintaining itself on the strength of soldiers imported from Muslim countries abroad. So far as the Hindus were concerned, the period of Muslim rule was a period of unmitigated suffering and misery. Countless Hindus were converted at the point of the sword, and their women abducted or forced into marriage with Muslims or made concubines in Muslim homes. Plunder of Hindu properties was a permanent Muslim occupation. The Brahmans were slaughtered, and temples demolished so that mosques and other Muslim monuments could be raised on their sites with their debris.

The present study clearly reveals the fact that no solution of the communal problem is possible unless the Muslims come out of the Medieval Age, and learn to live in modern times.

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HISTORY:ANCIENT:INDOLOGY

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